

Agency chiefs warn of harmful toxins at Chasewater

ALGAE CONCERNS SPARK SWIM BAN

Report by Nathan Briant

VISITORS to Chasewater Country Park are being warned not to swim in its waters as tests are carried out to find out whether a dangerous toxin is present.

Signs around its lake went up alerting potential swimmers and dog walkers that blue green algae had been found at the weekend and samples are now being analysed.

Blue-green algae can kill animals and could cause humans rashes, eye irritation, diarrhoea, fever and pains to muscles and joints.



One of the signs

It grows naturally in inland waters, estuaries and the sea, the Environment Agency said, and grows when lots of it collects together.

Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities and the environment at Staffordshire County Council, said: "We are now having the water tested to see what kind of algae it is.

"As a precautionary measure we are asking people not to go into the water and for dog owners to keep their pets away from the water's edge. There are lots of different types of algae that gather on water.

"Once we have the results back and know which type of algae we are dealing with we will take the appropriate action. Children and adults alike were enjoying Chasewater, between Brownhills and Burntwood, on Monday morning.

Rangers

"They included a man who was jet skiing on the reservoir's water despite the warnings.

About 150,000 people visit Chasewater, which is set across 890 acres, every year.

Burntwood North councillor and Labour group leader on Staffordshire County Council Sue Woodward said: "It seems to me that the staff on the ground, the rangers acted quite promptly but it does not look like the follow through has been as it might have been.

"With the summer holidays just starting, Chasewater is such a lovely asset to our area."

The Environment Agency has issued warnings about the algae in a booklet, Blue-Green Algae.

They stated: "Illnesses including skin rashes, eye irritation, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and muscle and joint pain have occurred in people who've swallowed or swam through algal scum.

"These haven't led to long-term effects or death but, in some cases, the illnesses were severe.

"Although algal scum isn't always harmful, avoid contact with it and the water close to it. The toxins the algae may produce are also toxic to animals and can cause severe illness and death."

YOUNGSTERS ON THE BALL IN JOEL'S MEMORY



Suzy Richards seen at Pulse Soccer & Fitness with some of the youngsters who took part in the fundraiser five-a-side football tournament

A MARATHON 21-hour, five-a-side charity football tournament between friends and family – played in honour of Tunisia victim Joel Richards – has raised thousands of pounds. More than 250 people put their Astro turf trainers on to take part in the mammoth footballing challenge at Pulse Soccer & Fitness in Wednesbury.

The event was to raise money for the Smile for Joel charity. The final amount brought in is still being calculated.

The game, which started at 9am on Saturday and didn't finish until 6am on Sunday, saw 21 teams of all ages from across the West Midlands take part with each team playing an hour. Among those who took part were family including his younger brother Owen, 17, who played in the last

game to ensure he was on the pitch for that long-awaited final whistle. It's one of 21 charity events being held in honour of Joel and his family, who died last year.

Joel's mother Suzy Richards, from Wednesbury, lost her 19-year-old son Joel, brother Adrian Evans, 49, and father Patrick Evans, 78, during the terrorist attack on Sousse beach on June 26 last year where 38 people were killed. All three were Walsall fans.

The driving force behind the fundraiser came from friend Mitchell Titley, who wanted to hold the 21-hour event as Joel would be turning 21 in August.

Suzy added: "Staff worked through the night at Pulse and they kindly donated their facilities for free. The community sup-

port was amazing. I can't thank Mitchell Titley, Pulse, Joel's friends, the community and everyone who donated the raffle prizes enough."

Meanwhile, a day of celebration and reflection will be held by the Birmingham FA to mark the official launch of the Joel Richards Legacy Fund. This Sunday, the Birmingham County FA hosts the official launch of the fund with activities at Ray Hall Lane, Great Barr, featuring a headline match taking place later in the afternoon.

A fun run is also taking place on September 11 at Sandwell Valley in memory of Joel featuring both 3k and 5k races. To register, email smileforjoel@aol.com or call 0207 2680223. Search 'Smile for Joel' on Facebook for more details.

POLITICS

Minister focuses on college's excellence

THE new Secretary of State for Education made Walsall College her first port of call after her recent appointment.

Justine Greening MP visited the college last Thursday, where she met with the college principal and chief executive, Jatinder Sharma OBE, to discuss the college's strengths and practices.

The MP was given a tour of the £64 million Wisemore campus and £11m Business and Sports Hub, shown the industry training facilities including the new risual Micro-soft IT academy,

Justine Greening

as well as the Littleton Restaurant. Walsall College made history in 2013 when it became the first outstanding general further education college under new inspection framework.

Justine Greening said: "The Prime Minister has made clear that this government will focus on making Britain a country that works for everybody – not just the privileged few. It was tremendous to see the fantastic work Walsall college is doing to bridge the gap between education and industry."

COUNCIL

New leader in pledge over public's choice

THE new leader of Walsall Council has pledged to let the public have the final say over the future of services in the borough.

Councillor Sean Coughlan said residents will be offered a chance to pay more so services they want can continue – otherwise, they will face losing them in the future.

He said: "The public themselves have a choice, they can either pay more for services or they can see those services disappear. That is not something we want to force on people."

Councillor Coughlan and his cabinet are meeting to begin to flesh out the budget, with, as of yet, no specific details of the kinds of services which may be put under threat. When quizzed on which services could be involved, he said: "Everything is out in the open and up for grabs."

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INSIDE

In the driving seat for a classic show



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01543 465305
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Poker ace scoops £450,000 jackpot



Walsall's Kully Sidhu, aged 33

WALSALL poker ace Kully Sidhu won over £450,000 on a recent trip to Las Vegas – taking his lifetime earnings to over £1.7 million through the game.

Mr Sidhu, who hit the headlines earlier this year when he won over £200,000, won the Bellagio Cup at the famous Bellagio casino this month for a whopping £457,430, according to popular poker tracker website Hendon Mob.

His win took his career earnings to some £1,728,955 and catapulted him from 74th on England's all-time poker winnings list to 34th.

Aged 33, Mr Sidhu, from New Inven-

tion, worked for his father's clothing store in Bentley before developing a love of the game. He studied at Sneyd Comprehensive School in Bloxwich but it was at De Montfort University where he found his love of the game. Mr Sidhu has been playing professionally now for over six years.

In a final table that was stacked with some of the biggest names in the poker world, Mr Sidhu outlasted them all to claim first place prize money and the coveted trophy, according to Hendon Mob. Despite having been playing his trade professional for a number of

years and having amassed over £1m in winnings, it has not always been plain sailing for Mr Sidhu. He tried to forge his professional career while balancing it with work but decided to call it quits at age 20 when he felt things weren't going his way.

He didn't play cards for six months but soon got back in the swing of things, continuing his work at the clothes shop while preparing for a leap into the professional world. Mr Sidhu's first big win was in April 2010 when he scooped nearly £55,000 for a win on the Grosvenor UK Poker tour.

Council plans to take in 20 Syrian refugees

TWENTY refugees fleeing war torn Syria are set to be taken in across Walsall over the next 10 months, it has emerged.

Council bosses were due to commit to housing the refugees during a cabinet meeting last night, Wednesday.

The pledge was in response to a call from the Home Office to help relocate those affected. It follows on from a number of high profile court cases in recent months where people living in the borough have been charged with Syria-related offences.

Those who will eventually come to the borough are set to be families, rather than individuals. The council will receive funding from central government to help house the refugees, with £12,000 being made available per person over a period of five years.

Councillor Diane Coughlan, portfolio holder for social care, said: "The government has asked local authorities across the country to support its resettlement scheme but I also feel there's a moral obligation for us to do so too.

Support

"I can only imagine the horror and suffering that many of these families have experienced having fled from their homeland.

"Other UK councils and our colleagues in the Black Country are in the process of offering their support and we're keen to help where we can. We're aware the Government could, at any time, impose this upon local authorities.

"This process will take careful and detailed planning which is why we will continue to proactively work with our partners and voluntary organisations to establish what services they currently offer and how future services could be tailored to welcome these families.

"We've made an indicative pledge to assist 20 refugees, whose accommodation and associated costs will be met fully by the Government. Walsall has benefited from a diverse and welcoming community and we've already had a very positive response from residents and our partners offering help for these families."

A report detailing Walsall Council's pledge states that if the authority accepted 'too many' refugees, it could put too much pressure on front-line services.

Parade in the frame for youngsters



Children enjoy themselves during the parade which took place on the streets of Clayhanger

IT was a case of youngsters putting their best feet forward recently when pupils of a Walsall school took to the streets for a parade.

Holy Trinity CE School pupils proudly marched around Clayhanger with the deputy mayor, Councillor Marco Longhi and community police officers also in attendance last Tuesday.

The parade was the culmination of work the pupils had been completing relating to the 'Take One Picture' initiative organised by The National Gallery in London.

This is an annual competition whereby the gallery selects one of their pieces of artwork to inspire

creativity in schoolchildren. This year the picture was 'A Roman Triumph' by Peter Paul Rubens, and features a Roman Procession which inspired the children to display their work by holding a parade.

Different classes took different aspects of the picture to inspire their hat making, weaving, instrument making, singing and dancing.

The pupil's creative processes will now be documented by the school and sent to the National Gallery. There is a possibility that some of the pupil's work will even be put on display in the National Gallery in London later this year.

The pupils also used the pa-

rade to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday as well as remembering a well-loved community figure Mrs Jackie Johnson who sadly passed away recently.

Proceeds from collections made during the parade will be donated to Fair Oaks Day Hospice in her memory. Sadly a charity football match, which was due to take place in the afternoon, had to be postponed until September due to the very high temperatures on the day.

Headteacher Judith Driver said "The children and staff have worked extremely hard with this project and it has been a lovely community event."

Rail station plans boost with £3m for project

LONG-AWAITED plans for a railway station in Aldridge have moved a step closer with the issuing of a £3 million grant toward the project.

The proposal was revitalised last year following the announcement of the Midlands Growth Strategy.

And now The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has given a multi-million grant to the scheme for this financial year. Initially £4.1million was put forward, but this has since been reduced to £3m.

Left over funding has gone to the West Coast Mainline HS2, plans for the Wolverhampton to Willenhall Metro extension and M5 Junction 1 improvement works.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, deputy leader of Walsall Council, released a statement on behalf of the council and the Black Country LEP.

He said: "I can confirm that this is a ring-fenced partnership project which is going through the early stages of a detailed process with stakeholders for future development.

"In the meantime as people would expect we are utilising the funding available to deliver more immediate projects and we will reallocate this accounted for money to its intended use when it is needed and for which we are accountable."

The station, which was based in Station Road, opened in 1879. It served the 13-mile Sutton Park line from Walsall to Sutton Coldfield, providing links to Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Travellers set to be evicted

WALSALL Council has issued a notice on travellers who set up an illegal encampment at a Walsall park to vacate the land. About 30 caravans set up a pitch at Pleck Park on Saturday July 17.

West Midlands Police has since received at least six complaints.

Walsall Council has now issued a notice on the group, showing the intention that the authority intends to get a court order to move them on if they do not leave.

A council spokeswoman said yesterday: "I can confirm that needs assessments have been carried out on site and the first notices will be served."

Councillor Naheed Gultasib, who represents Pleck, said: "The council has had complaints. It is responding to them as it normally would."

Delays warning as roads are closed

TWO weeks of road closures in Birchills are under way, with drivers warned to expect delays. Whitehouse Street, at the junction of B4210 Stafford Street, will be closed 24 hours a day until August 8. South Staffordshire Water is carrying out water main connections.

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'Good' rating for school with Ofsted turnaround

A PRIMARY school which was told it must raise its standards two years ago by an education watchdog has now been rated 'good'.

Ofsted carried out a two-day inspection at Hamstead Junior in Great Barr last month and have now published their findings.

The watchdog has rated the school, which caters for around 230 pupils, as 'good' in every area paying tribute to chiefs who have turned its fortunes around since 2014, when it was deemed to 'require improvement'.

Their report stated: "As a result of effective leadership, management and governance, the school's effectiveness has improved since the last inspection and continues to do so."

"Teaching has improved and is now consistently good. Work set challenges pupils of varying abilities."

"Pupils across the school achieve well as a result, particularly in reading and mathematics."

"Standards of attainment have risen considerably in the last two years and are now much higher than average by the end of year six. Pupils are well prepared for secondary school."

"Pupils enjoy learning at Hamstead. The curriculum motivates pupils well."

Ofsted also declared disadvantaged pupils were achieving well due to the effective use of pupil premium funding. They confirmed that pupil attendance had got better with most attending regularly and credited the safety and wellbeing of youngsters.

Council told to act after Brexit

WALSALL Council has been told to 'step up' and reassure businesses in the region on their future after Brexit. The referendum vote to leave the European Union has led to concerns over the future of the UK economy.

Darlaston councillor Doug James has said that the authority must put together a plan on how to protect local businesses after the vote.

He said: "Following the Referendum vote for Brexit we can't afford to sit back in shock. Walsall Council must step up and reach out to local European owners of companies and those with contract links to the EU markets. Reassurance, support and grants need to be provided now. We need to set out a clear plan to address business confidence."

Search on to find woman's relatives

WALSALL Healthcare NHS Trust is trying to locate the family of Constance Collett of Bentley, Walsall, born in 1927. If you are related to Constance please contact Julie Venables on 01922 721172 ext 4637

Prom is icing on cake for great year



Prom king and queen Matas Gričius and Shabnaz Choudray with head teacher Andy Seager

YOUNGSTERS from Bloxwich Academy rounded off a remarkable year when they took part in their leaving prom recently.

It comes after Ofsted's latest report pinpointed: "In the secondary phase pupils attitude to learning and their behaviour in lessons and around the school have improved as a result of better teaching and the raised expectations of leaders. There is a much better climate for learning in lessons."

Head teacher Andy Seager said: "I am delighted with the progress Bloxwich Academy has made this

academic year. 2016 has seen many changes, including the introduction of new behaviour and uniform policies. These, along with the delivery of good or better lessons each and every day has enabled Bloxwich Academy to go from strength to strength."

"A combined team effort from staff, pupils, parents and carers alike is helping turn Bloxwich Academy into the outstanding place we believe our pupils deserve."

"Indeed it was brilliant celebrating with Year 11 pupils at their leaving prom on June 30 at The Mount Hotel,

Wolverhampton. They celebrated long into the night and we eagerly await their results in August. With numbers rising there is a real excitement each and every day as our pupils continue to develop both academically and socially, increasing their chances to progress into further education and employment. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2016/17."

Anyone who wishes to keep up to date with all the activities pupils are taking part in please visit the Bloxwich Academy website at www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk.

Danger driver went wrong way on road

A MOTORIST raced home and started drinking vodka after being caught travelling the wrong way round a Black Country town centre, a judge was told.

Anxious Alan Micklewright, who also failed to stop when a police officer walked into the road in front of him, feared he might fail a breath test after downing two bottles of beer, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

An officer saw the 39-year-old going against the traffic on the one-way system in Lichfield Street, Walsall during the early hours of March 14, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

He also noticed the distinctive personalised registration number of the Range Rover. The prosecutor continued: "The officer stepped into the carriageway to order the driver to stop. He was in uniform and wearing a high-visibility jacket but the driver did not stop and the officer had to step back out of the way."

Decision

Then the Range Rover almost collided with a taxi coming the right way down the road and when police arrived at the home of Micklewright in Haden Road, Leamore they found him drinking from a bottle of vodka, the court heard.

Mr Spratt said: "He had plainly been drinking at home just minutes after being seen in the town centre but also accepts consuming some alcohol before the incident. This contributed to his decision not to stop. His driving created danger to others."

Mr Andrew Wilkins, defending, said: "He admits drinking two bottles of Budweiser before being seen at the wheel of the Range Rover."

Micklewright, who denied driving directly at the uniformed officer, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and was told by Judge John Wait: "When you got home you were fearful that the police might be on their way to see you and they arrived to find you drinking in a way that would have contaminated the findings of a breath test."

The defendant, who had a previous conviction for driving with excess alcohol, was given a two month prison sentence suspended for 18 months, with a one month night-time home curfew and 150 hours unpaid work.

Micklewright was also fined £500, ordered to pay £500 costs and banned from driving for three years.

Special garden tribute to dinner lady



Front from left, Karen's nephew Jack Thomas Hill, aged eight, daughter Kelly Lander. Back from left, Karen's sister, Debbie Hill, her mother, Evelyn Myatt, Willenhall Fire Station Watch Commander, Chris Hill (was there to cut the ribbon as Karen loved firefighters), father, Ken Myatt and brother Kevin Myatt

A DINNER lady is so missed by her colleagues at a primary school that spare land has been transformed into a memorial garden for her.

Karen Evans, who worked at Pool Hayes Primary School in Willenhall, died aged just 50 in December 2014. The garden was the brainchild of two workers at the Bridgnorth Grove school, teaching assistant Wendy Mills and Annmarie Rogers.

Mrs Mills said of Mrs Evans: "She was a dinner lady for just over six years. She was married with a family and grandchildren. She was a bubbly person and loved by everyone."

"She passed away on December 5. We were on our works Christmas night out. She had been up and down to the hospital. She was very short of breath all week and I think it was on the Thursday she was sent home from work."

"And she said: 'save my place, I'm definitely coming' but she never arrived. We had the phone call at about 10.20pm [on the day of the party]. I can remember it like it was yesterday. Karen loved the kids and the kids loved her."

Volunteers from the school and outside it, including the probation service, took about a year to get the garden into shape. Bird feeders, birdhouse and solar lamps were all installed with it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pub adds cider to beer festival

A CIDER festival run by a Black Country pub is to be incorporated into a new beer event being run in Brierley Hill.

The Dudley Beer Festival is being held in Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, from tomorrow, Friday, until Sunday, as part of the wider Black Country Festival.

Licensee of The Jolly Crispin, Upper Gornal, Rob Carey, said: "The Crispin will not be running our regular cider festival in October because we are developing our Christmas fair, but we are proud to be having our cider festival, in conjunction with the festival at Brierley Hill Civic Hall."

The Crispin bar will also be selling a range of fruit wines and is raising funds for Compton Hospice. The new festival runs from 12 noon each day.

Saddlers fans told of kit delay

DELIVERIES of the new Walsall FC kit and training gear have been delayed until mid-August.

The Saddlers unveiled their new chequered home strip and blue and white away kit at the start of the month and promised fans they would get their hands on them before pre-season.

But due to a manufacturing delay supporters could be waiting another three weeks to receive their purchases.

Club spokesman Dale Moon said: "We have been in constant dialogue with our kit suppliers and apologise on their behalf for the delay."

A JD spokesman added: "We would like to thank the fans for their patience and understanding."

Cash help for victim support

CHARITIES that support victims of crime in the West Midlands can now apply for a slice of £300,000.

Applications for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Victims Fund 2016-17 are now open.

The fund was set up by David Jamieson to improve victims' services and maximise the potential of the voluntary and community organisations that support the victims of crime.

Funding of up to £15,000 is available for voluntary and community organisations that support victims and helps them cope and recover. The deadline for applications is 5pm on September 9.

Wedding hall plans approved by council

PLANS to transform a former conference centre and wedding hall in Walsall have been approved.

Walsall Council has accepted plans put forward by the Karimia Institute to convert the centre on Stafford Street into a small school and place of worship.

The work will create 21 jobs, including six nursery nurse roles, three car park stewards and tutors.

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A FAILURE for all seasons. Until this week, my broadband service tended to crash out in heavy rain, wind or thunder. This week we discovered it doesn't like a heatwave either. Wrong sort of sun.

BARELY a year after the inquest into the deaths of three recruits during training on Brecon Beacons, another young soldier has collapsed and died. It was on the hottest day of the year so far. This extraordinary day had been forecast for some time and yet, even after the "gross failures" condemned in last year's inquest, the gruelling selection went ahead. The dead man, Corporal Joshua Hoole was not a rookie but an experienced soldier whose health, presumably, had been monitored for years. He should not have died. Once again, a family grieves and the nation demands an explanation. It better be good.

WHAT sort of government can produce a list of 50,000 "enemies" and arrange for them to be imprisoned, detained or sacked in less than three days? Don't you get the impression that Turkey's post-coup crackdown was planned at least as well as the plot itself?

BRITAIN'S best-known atheist Richard Dawkins and his wife, the former Doctor Who star Lalla Ward, have announced they have "separated entirely amicably." They insist they are still good friends, will continue working together and are sharing their house. So what's the difference between that and being married?



THE F-word raises its furry head. Andrea Leadsom said during her campaign for the Tory leadership: "I would absolutely commit

to holding a vote to repeal the (fox) hunting ban. It has not proven to be in the interests of animal welfare whatsoever." Now Secretary of State for the Environment, will she be tempted to lift the hunting ban to placate the landowning classes? Not if she has half a brain. There is no sensible reason why the pursuit of a small creature should arouse such ferocious political passions. It just does. Banning the hunt won Tony Blair thousands of votes in his 1997 landslide. Lifting the ban would cost Theresa May's government thousands more while satisfying only a few people who were Tory voters anyway.

A FRIEND is just back from a windsurfing holiday in Greece. On a daily basis he pitted his taut-muscled physique and the latest hi-tech windsurfer technology against the fiercest squalls of the wild Aegean. Skipping the wave-crests, he hit speeds he had never dreamed of. He says the sensation was spoiled somewhat when he was overtaken by a bumble bee.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

New leader's pledge on services

THE new leader of Walsall Council has said he will 'not cut services indiscriminately' despite admitting the authority's financial situation is likely to get worse.

The new Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition which took over after the reigns of the authority after local elections in May hosted its first full council meeting last Thursday.

Councillor Coughlan said he 'recognises the challenges' that the council has to meet, including making £86 million worth of savings over the next four years. However, he has maintained that the authority will try to deliver as many services as possible in spite of cuts.

Councillor Coughlan said: "I make no apology, within an environment of reducing budgets we have an obligation, and it is a key principle of this

administration, to ensure we deliver services at a scale and intensity proportionate to the degree of need.

"Both parties to the coalition will work tirelessly to meet this objective.

"Since the last time I was in office the deep cuts have got deeper, we will have a balanced four year budget and there will be a golden thread leading from this corporate plan all the way through to service delivery."

When it was revealed in 2014 that the council would have to face up to making £86 million cuts, it was estimated that 487 jobs would be lost, alongside eight libraries and 12 children's centres.

An alternative budget put forward prior to this year's elections by the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties organised funds so that the library services would be kept.

Father, 26, in breach of order avoids jail

A FATHER of three who continued to harass his former partner - despite having a new girlfriend and a young family - has avoided a prison sentence for a breach of his restraining order.

Mark Mills, aged 26, of Waverley Road, Darlaston, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Wednesday charged with breaching his restraining order. He was given a 12-month custodial sentence, suspended for two years, as well as a 150-hour unpaid work order with a 15-day rehabilitation activity requirement.

He was also ordered to pay £1,200 in costs, to be paid at the rate of £200 a month, and was given another restraining order lasting for three years.

The court heard how Mills, who has two young boys with his former partner, contacted her after she told him she was seeing another man.

Mills then visited her brother's house where he knew she would be and then threatened to tell her employer and social services that her new boyfriend was a drug addict.

Mills later drove his former partner in his car, and though she was given opportunity to leave, Mill's actions breached the terms of his previous restraining order.

Recorder Benjamin Mills said: "I hope you feel ashamed. The defence says that there is a dawning maturity within you but the light should have fully dawned on that maturity a long time ago. I cannot express just how close you were to going through that door, down into the cells and receiving an active prison sentence."

Man in attack by youths is treated

A MAN was taken to hospital after being assaulted by a group of youths in Great Barr. The 27-year-old victim was decorating a shop in Collingwood Drive when a group of teenagers started kicking the shutters.

He went outside to confront them but was assaulted and fell to the floor.

As he lay on the ground the assault continued, with the offenders punching, kicking and stamping on the man's head, until passers-by intervened. He was taken to hospital and required emergency treatment for his injuries.

The incident happened at 9.15pm on June 1. Police now want to trace the men pictured for questioning in relation to the incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Det Con Paul Chambers on 101.

Chalking up new art exhibition

AN artist best known for his photo-realistic chalk drawings will have his work displayed at the New Art Gallery in Walsall. Oliver Jones has created a new large-scale multi-panel work, Divine. The exhibition runs from August 5 to November 20.

Driver crashed through level crossing barriers

By Jessica Labhart

A 44-year-old man caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage when he drove directly through level crossing barriers when they were down.

David Smith, of Little Station, Walsall, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown court last Wednesday, charged with travelling across a level crossing, endangering the safety of a person on a railway.

Smith, who pleaded guilty to the charge, was given an eight month custodial sentence suspended for 12 months as well as told to complete 100 hours of unpaid work. He was also given an eight-month disqualification from driving and ordered to pay £1,500 in costs and a £100 victim surcharge.

The court heard how, on August 14, 2014, Smith was driving along Willenhall Lane when he failed to stop at a level crossing when the barriers were down, and drove directly through them, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

Threshold

Sentencing Smith, Recorder Benjamin Mills said: "Your actions caused serious damage to the barriers and caused a great deal of inconvenience to others.

"It is a matter of small fortune that it was not far far worse. This is an offence that is so serious that it certainly crosses the custody threshold. After trial you would have received ten months in prison. But because you pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and were very candid in your interview with British Transport Police, I have reduced this to eight months, and suspended it for 12 months."

The court heard how Smith had previously appeared before the court for a further driving offence - using his mobile phone behind the wheel in November 2014. Recorder Mills added: "You are a 44-year-old man of previous good character with a good record.

Riders get saddled up for challenge



Endurance challenge cyclists from left, Chris Hutchings, Richard Connop and Lee Clifford

THREE Black Country cyclists are taking on the gruelling challenge of pedalling from Land's End to John O' Groats. Colleagues Richard Connop, aged 40, and 52-year-old Chris Hutchings, and their former workmate, 31-year-old Lee Clifford, will attempt to complete the challenge in just seven days.

They will be joined by Richard's friend, Jake Field, from Leeds, with the foursome setting off last Saturday.

The aim is to raise funds for three charities: Birmingham Children's Hospital, Diabetes UK and Compton Hospice. Speaking before they set off, Richard, who lives in Bloxwich, said: "We have done a lot of charity events and they are normally pre-organised events.

"But we have found that when raising that money

not enough of it goes to the charities. A lot is taken up in fees. We said to ourselves we want to do a big challenge, something that will push us, while making sure the charities get all of the money.

"That is why we decided to organise it all ourselves." The charity closest to their hearts is Diabetes UK, with Jake having type one diabetes. In the past the group has cycled from Newcastle to London in 24 hours and from London to Paris in the same period.

The near 1,000 mile journey includes 49,000 feet of climbing taking in the Lake District and the Pennines.

The group wants to raise £4,000 which will then be matched by Richard's employer. Visit www.sponsorme.co.uk/chris Hutchings/jogle2016 to donate.

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Fewer are claiming as jobless in the borough

FEWER people claimed Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in Walsall last month.

The claimant count total for the borough was down 35 on May at 4,585 – 2.7 per cent of the working population. The government received good news on the jobs front with unemployment falling again to the lowest in eight years and a record number of people in work across the UK.

But the West Midlands was one of only two regions to buck the trend with a rise in numbers out of work.

The latest Office for National Statistics figures released last week showed the national employment rate at a record high of 74.4 per cent, with 31.7 million people in work in the three months to May – 176,000 more than the previous quarter.

A total of 1.65 million people are unemployed, a fall of 54,000 over the quarter and 201,000 compared with a year ago, giving a jobless rate of 4.9 per cent – the lowest since the summer of 2005.

The number unemployed in the West Midlands was 165,000, up 11,000 from the three months to March, but the number in work in the region was at a record high 2.65m. The numbers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in the West Midlands fell by 880 to 79,225 – 2.2 per cent – last month.

Sandwell was down 45 to 7,020 (3.5 per cent) and Dudley fell by 40 to 5,445 (2.8 per cent). Wolverhampton had 35 fewer claiming at 6,450 (four per cent).

Three parks get their green flags

THREE parks in Walsall have been recognised as being among the best in the UK. Willenhall Memorial Park, Palfrey Park and Merriens Wood have all been awarded Green Flag Awards – the mark of a quality park or green space across the UK.

The award, now celebrating its 20th year, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. Councillor Chris Jones, the portfolio holder for Clean and Green, said: "These awards are a well-deserved recognition of all the hard work that goes into providing the high quality local parks enjoyed by residents and visitors alike."

Councillor Diane Coughlan, from Friends of Willenhall Memorial Park, added: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award again from Keep Britain Tidy. This Award recognises and highlights that people in Willenhall are benefitting from a green space of the very highest quality."

Each site retains its flag for two years, so other Green Flag Sites in Walsall such as Blackwood Park and Rough Wood Local Nature Reserve will retain their Green Flags in 2016, until judging in 2017. Willenhall Park was created in the early 1920s.

University honour for pub group chief



Rooney Anand, head of Greene King

A FORMER Walsall schoolboy who now runs one of the UK's biggest beer and pubs groups has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Aston University.

Greene King chief executive Rooney Anand, who graduated with a MBA from Aston in 1988 and grew up in Walsall, was presented with the honorary doctorate at a ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall as part of the university's 50th anniversary.

Throughout the week, more than 1,800 students from across Aston's four schools will receive their de-

grees, including 23 honorary degrees awarded to prominent Aston graduates, luminaries and leading figures from the university's history.

Rooney is chief executive of Greene King, one of Britain's biggest beer and pub companies – and a major rival of Wolverhampton-based Marston's. With over 3,000 pubs, hotels and restaurants across England, Wales and Scotland – including the new Sunbeam pub in Wolverhampton's i10 building – the company employs 44,000 people and operates brands including Hungry Horse, Farmhouse

Inns, Chef & Brewer, Flaming Grill and Loch Fyne.

After joining Greene King in 2001 as managing director of the brewing division, Rooney was appointed chief executive in 2005. Under his leadership the company has undergone a period of significant growth; from a business with 800 pubs and sales of £733 million in 2005, to over 3,000 pubs and sales of £2 billion last year. Rooney is also a senior independent director of William Morrison Supermarkets and chairman of Purity Soft Drinks, based in Wednesbury.

Car insurance fraudster teen's sentence slashed

A WALSALL schoolboy who was locked up for a "remarkably sophisticated" fake insurance fraud has saw his sentence slashed by appeal judges.

Azeem Mahmood Hussain, 19, of Broadway West, used online adverts to con victims into paying for non-existent car insurance policies.

He made almost £4,000 from the scam, which he carried out when he was only 16 years old and still at school.

But it was not until last month that he was finally sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court to 12 months' youth custody for four frauds.

Today, three senior judges at the Court of Appeal said not enough account had been taken of his young age at the time.

And there was evidence that Hussain had turned his life around in the three intervening years.

He had obtained qualifications and a job and now wants to go on to higher education, the London court was told.

Complaints

Cutting the term to eight months, Lord Justice Hamblen said "significant allowance" should have been given for his youth.

"This is a case where the offence was so serious that only a custodial sentence could be justified," he said.

"However, we do consider that a less long custodial term was called for."

The court heard Hussain's frauds came to light after complaints from duped customers in 2013.

One had paid for insurance for his Honda Civic, but found his documents were fake when he was stopped by police in Northern Ireland.

Another victim had paid out about £1,700 for insurance for members of his family, but discovered the fraud when his son had an accident the very next day.

Investigations showed thousands of pounds had passed through Hussain's bank accounts, with about £3,700 taken from 18 victims.

At the crown court last month, the fraud was described as "remarkably sophisticated" for someone so young.

His lawyers argued today that he is now a much more mature and responsible person.

He is likely to serve half of his eight-month sentence before release.

Opening plans going swimmingly



Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick is seen beside the new 25-metre pool at the New Bloxwich leisure centre

THE opening of two new leisure centres in the borough are now just a few days away, with the keys for both facilities handed over to Walsall Council.

Both Oak Park and Bloxwich Active Living Centres are to open on Tuesday August 9.

As part of the build up to their openings, the keys to both leisure centres were handed over to the council on Tuesday.

The new multi million pound

centres, which each include a 25-metre swimming pool, teaching pool, six court sports hall, dance studio and cafe, will be fitted out over the coming weeks with state of the art station fitness suites in time for their opening to the public.

Oak Park is also able to offer two glass backed squash courts, sauna and a steam room. The full size, floodlit artificial grass pitch at Oak Park will be replaced over

the autumn. Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, Walsall Council's community, leisure and culture boss, said: "Opening these doors for the first time is very exciting."

"It is truly wonderful to be able to take possession of these buildings and brings us ever closer to realising the Council's commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by getting more people, more active, more often."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jump to it call over summer

CHILDREN have been encouraged to master the art of trampolining at Europe's largest trampoline arena this summer.

Bosses at Walsall's Jump Nation is encouraging aspiring athletes to use one of the 218 trampolines to perfect their moves.

The site on Bentley Mill Way also has a tumble track and dodgeball court, as well as a cafe for parents.

Michelle Ball, managing director of Jump Nation, said: "With all of our trampolines, tumble tracks and even giant airbags, there are plenty of ways for the kids to really get into sport and master their moves this summer – rain or shine."

Complaints on big bin refusals

WALSALL Council has received dozens of complaints and appeals after more than 2,500 people were refused a larger bin ahead of controversial waste collection changes.

In October, the authority will switch to alternate weekly collections in a move to save around £1million a year.

Since May 20,916 people have applied for a bin bigger than the standard 140-litre one to be used for rubbish, but out of those 2,508 have been declined, prompting responses with 107 people challenging the decision and 29 lodging official complaints. Councillor Carl Creaney was one of those to be refused stating the application process needed reviewing.

Fears on safety of missing boy

POLICE are becoming increasingly concerned about the whereabouts of a missing 15-year-old from Staffordshire. Kane Dawson was last seen at around 7pm last Friday, 22 July, in the Chasetown area.

He is described as white, 6ft, short ginger hair and brown eyes and was wearing a black hooded top.

Should anyone have any information about Kane, please contact Staffordshire Police on the non-emergency number 101, quoting reference 894 of July 15.



Kane Dawson

Cannabis haul is found at factory

AT least £180,000 worth of cannabis was found by police at a house in Great Barr. The factory was discovered by neighbourhood police officers at a property on Walsall Road last Wednesday afternoon, where 365 plants were seized.

The cannabis was spread across four rooms and the loft of the property was used for cultivation. West Midlands Police said the electricity had also been abstracted illegally.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

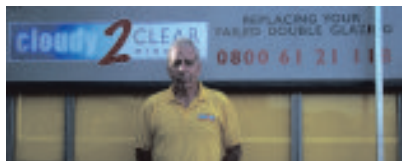
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Our Sam will give region a loud voice

NEVER thought I would see it in my life-time, but the latest appointment to the highest office in the land has finally seen the glass ceiling shattered.

The new England manager is from Dudley. Let's hope that a generation from now, we will look back at the appointment of Sam Allardyce as a watershed moment in history, the beginning of a revolution which will mean that in years to come anybody of any importance will come from the Black Country.

The appointment of Big Sam means that at last the voice of the Black Country will finally be heard. At least in the changing rooms of Wembley. And very loudly too, if what some of his former players say is anything to go by.

□ □ □

NOT that I actually hold much hope for the England team under Allardyce's leadership, you understand.

As ever, we can probably expect a brief honeymoon period, some very solid results in the qualifying stages, and come the World Cup the players will then freeze on the big stage and go out with a whimper.

It's sad to admit it, but we just don't seem to be very good at football these days. Which probably explains why nearly everybody in England gets terribly excited by a Scotsman who is good at ping pong.

Then we have the Tour de France, which has just been one by an Englishman called Chris Froome. Good for him, he seems a decent sort of chap. But is cycling through the countryside really a sport? While competing at that level certainly requires a level of physical endurance that I could never compete with, it still essentially a group of people travelling by a slightly old-fashioned mode of transport. A bit like steam railway buffs or traction engine fans.

□ □ □

Now, having failed to get bridge recognised as an Olympic sport, English Heritage is suggesting that the medieval game of jousting should be considered for the 2020 Olympics.

So having failed miserably at the most popular game on earth, we are now turning our attention to riding bikes, playing cards, and encouraging blokes on horseback to jab at each other with blunted spears.

Who says we're a nation of couch potatoes?

□ □ □

GOING back to the England football team, have you ever heard anybody, in everyday conversation refer to England as the "Three Lions"?

"Eh Jim, you going down the pub to see the Three Lions' game?"

No, me neither. So why do the tabloids insist on referring to Allardyce as "the new Three Lions boss?"



Donald Neilson, known as the Black Panther



Lesley Whittle, who was kidnapped in 1975



The shaft where Lesley was kept

Grim murder that shook the nation

It's now 40 years since justice finally caught up with sinister killer, The Black Panther, as MARK ANDREWS reports

SERIAL killers do not come more sinister than Donald Neilson. He revelled in his nickname The Black Panther – given because of the way he swiftly pounced on his victims wearing a dark hood.

The army-obsessed former soldier planned his crimes with military precision and became perturbed when he felt the media did not give him the attention he craved.

And very few places were affected by the fear more than the West Midlands and Shropshire which was shaken to the core when Neilson abducted, and then murdered teenage heiress Lesley Whittle, having demanded a £50,000 ransom.

Terror

Her body was found in Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, in 1975. He went on to kill security guard Gerald Smith at the Freightliner Terminal in Dudley, and had committed the murder of Sidney Grayland a year earlier by shooting him in Langley, Oldbury.

It is 40 years since Neilson was handed five life sentences at Oxford Crown Court for his year-long reign of terror which claimed five lives across Britain.

In court judge Mr Justice Mars-Jones told him that the enormity of his crimes put him in a class apart from almost all convicted murderers, and that he should never taste freedom again.

While Neilson was said to have cried in his prison cell after the sentence, former Shropshire Star editor Andy Wright who was in the court that day recalls him looking almost impassive while in the dock.

"He seemed pretty collected. I suppose there is an air of resignation when you have been



Shocking story and family pleas made the headlines

caught for crimes like this that you are going to be sent to prison for a long time," he says.

Neilson had killed three times before Lesley's murder, and once more afterwards. His victims included postmaster's husband Sidney from Langley and a security guard at the Dudley Freightliner rail terminal. But it was the death of 17-year-old Lesley, who was doing her A-levels at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun College, which really shook the nation.

"There was an awful lot of apprehension once it became clear he was also responsible for the murder in the Black Country, and the shooting in Dudley," remembers Mr Wright, who covered Lesley's abduction from start to finish.

"People were pretty unsettled that he was around. They had seen the photofits, and they would be looking their neighbours up and down. It was a very nervous time."

Neilson had snatched Lesley from her bedroom in Highley, near Bridgnorth in January 1975, leaving a ransom note punched on plastic Dymo tape, demanding £50,000 from her wealthy family. His ransom note was so detailed the message was more than 18 inches in length, giving specific instructions to deliver the money in a white van to the Swan shopping centre in Kidderminster.

Police initially wondered whether it might have been a student prank, but it quickly emerged he was very serious. Neilson had tethered Lesley by a noose in a drainage shaft beneath Bathpool Park, and it was there where her body would be found following a botched attempt by police to trap him during a ransom drop.

Neilson was born Donald Nappey in 1936, and was said to have suffered many taunts about his unfortunate surname while grow-

ing up in his home town of Bradford. He had served as a lance-corporal in the Army, but had struggled to settle into civilian life after giving up his military career to spend more time with his wife Irene and daughter Kathryn.

Fiercely protective of Kathryn, he changed his name to Neilson so she would not suffer bullying. He was also said to have been extremely possessive towards his wife, stopping her from seeing friends and subjecting her to frequent beatings.

He began as a prolific burglar, responsible for more than 400 unsolved break-ins. His offending stepped up a gear following a break-in at a house in Cheshire where, having discovered guns and ammunition, he decided armed robbery would be more lucrative.

Between 1971 and 1974, Neilson robbed 14 post offices, becoming increasingly more violent. He killed for the first time when he shot postmaster Donald Skepper during a robbery at Harrogate in February 1974. Police were quick to spot the link when he murdered another postmaster, Derek Astin of Baxenden, Lancashire, in September 1974.

Battered

It was just two months before he struck again, this time in Langley. He brutally battered sub-postmistress Margaret Grayland, and shot her husband Sidney dead.

However, when Neilson kidnapped Lesley the following January, police were slow to link the crime with the Panther murders. Neilson's carefully laid plans began to unravel during the botched ransom drop at Bathpool Park, Kidsgrove, yards from where Lesley was being held in a deep drainage shaft.

Lesley's brother Ronald was supposed to go to the park during the early hours and wait for Neilson to signal to him by flashing a torch. But, by coincidence, another couple turned up, resulting in confusion. Agitated, Neilson drove to Dudley where he attempted to rob the Freightliner terminal. During the raid, he shot security guard Gerald six times, causing him injuries which would result in his death the following year.

Lesley's body was not found until the following month, and Neilson would evade capture until November that year. Neilson died, aged 75, in 2011.

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Pipe works delay hitting us hard

AS a pensioner who has walking difficulties, I am writing to express my annoyance at the disgraceful amount of time it is taking the contractors of Severn Trent to replace the water pipes between Knightsbridge Lane and Spring Lane.

This is causing enormous traffic problems and chaos in the Short Heath area as it is the main road into Willenhall from the north. As the two nearest bus stops are within the area of disruption, I am forced to take taxis as I am partially sighted and do not drive.

I cannot walk the quarter of a mile to the next nearest bus stop, so my free bus pass is of little use. Now Severn Trent is asking us to put up with another five or six more weeks of this turmoil due to unusual ground conditions and other vague excuses I fail to understand.

I am also concerned about the safety of my cat, as my street is being used as a rat-run by diverted traffic.

Please get on with this job Severn Trent.
MR J BRISTOW
Willenhall

Turnout was not enough

AFTER reading so many nasty letters about the EU vote from the Remain voters saying it is the fault of the older voters for the result, how do they know? The vote is secret is it not?

What really annoys me about the moaning Remain camp is this, the turnout was between say 65-75 per cent of those who could vote at the age of 18 years, that's roughly say 30 per cent could and should have voted but did not bother either by post or walking to a polling station. Why not?

And those who spoiled their vote for some stupid reason, all it takes is one cross (X).

Don't blame the Leave campaign if the Remainers cannot get their act together - if people do not vote stop moaning about the result.

M T BARKER
Walsall

Times for an old approach

THIS government has now decided that our children should learn maths as they do in Asia, by whole class and repetition.

When I went to school 60 years ago I learnt maths by, you guessed, whole class and repetition.

I still use my times tables because they are burnt into my memory.

So this has gone from here around the world to Asia then finally back to here, during which time many of our children are still unable to know what change they should receive in a shop.

ANGELA UNDERHILL
Walsall Council

Politics of today are confusing

I BET that young folk just getting interested in politics today must be totally confused.

Now in my 70s, I was about 19 when I started to read the Daily Mirror, obviously I started to lean towards the Labour Party's socialist values, but in today's, what I call snake pit politics, how confusing! We have Theresa May's bid to become Prime Minister of a party who I've always just catered for the wealthy few. Now she wants to lead us out of the EU wishing for a better country for all. She's become a socialist!

Meanwhile the Labour Party has lost millions of votes over the years. They listen to no one. I don't know what they represent any more, does anyone?

There's ex-Deputy PM John Prescott, in his Sunday newspaper article states, "We should ban all referendums."

I wonder if young folk know that the voting system is 'rigged' so surely two parties can win in an election.

M A RICHARDSON
New Invention

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Ward in vote to quit EU, despite party line

WHILE I was of course, like most others, anxiously awaiting the overall result of the EU Referendum, I was particularly interested in the votes of the Blakenall ward in Walsall (the ward that I represented until very recently as a councillor).

I clearly stated in my last local election address (May 2016) that I was in favour of the Vote Leave campaign and gave the reasons why Britain should leave the European Union. This was contrary to the official Labour Party line.

I attended the counting of the votes for the Walsall borough which was done on tables that each represented the 20 wards in the borough.

I watched the Blakenall ward table closely and saw

the votes to leave piling up. The final figure for the Blakenall ward was 3,964 votes to leave versus 1,362 votes to remain. So three out of every four Blakenall ward voters voted to leave the EU.

It is such a pity that locally elected Labour councillors and MPs as well as the Labour leadership nationally, put themselves in a position where they were so out of touch with the majority of their core supporters.

The overwhelming vote to leave might, at long last, be a wake-up call that the Labour Party must not take their traditional voters for granted.

PETE SMITH
Blakenall ward resident and ex-councillor



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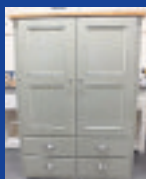
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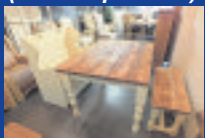


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Big-hearted doctor on her way with challenge

"SHE has had a really big impact on the whole of Walsall." That was the tribute paid to a retiring doctor who has helped thousands of people in the borough with heart problems for nearly three decades.

Dr Joscelin Lodwick has finally hung up her stethoscope at Aldridge-based Heart Care after 29 years of service.

She has been the only doctor at the charity which provides cardiac rehabilitation for people recovering from heart attacks and other related problems.

It also helps people with weight loss and lung disease. Dr Lodwick, aged 60 and from Aldridge, waved goodbye at a celebratory event last week and was about to set off on a 400km hike to raise money for Heart Care and leave a lasting legacy.

Recover

She said: "It has been a lovely place to work. What I have particularly liked is the continuity you see with people getting better which you do not usually get in healthcare. In hospitals they come in get treated and then off they go again. So it has been lovely to see so many people improve and recover from heart disease."

Paying tribute to the importance of her work, Heart Care community fundraiser Rina Guddu, added: "We get thousands of people coming through every year with heart and lung problems."

"Walsall also has an epidemic with obesity. Dr Lodwick has been our only doctor and she has had a really big impact on the whole of Walsall."

"People feel very safe with her. They often come having lost confidence and not knowing how much they can do



Dr Joscelin Lodwick, of Aldridge, with friends, colleagues and patients

after having a heart attack or suffering from heart disease. She has been a very reassuring presence.

"She is very experienced, and just brilliant with the patients and she will be a big loss to us."

Dr Lodwick set off from Saint Jean Pied de Port in France last Friday, em-

barking on a 400km walk to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

She is hoping to raise £2,000 to pay for a replacement exercise bike at Heart Care.

Donations can be made by visiting virginmoneygiving.com and searching 'Joscelin Lodwick'.



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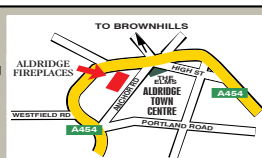
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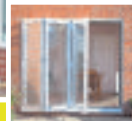
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Petty Officer Gavin Brown at St Thomas More School
SCHOOLCHILDREN from Willenhall came on board to have an extra-special lesson in nutrition from a chef of the Royal Navy. Petty Officer Gavin Brown visited St Thomas More School, Darlaston Lane, last month, to give year 9 and 10 students practical cooking lessons and talk about his naval career.

Students were shown how to prepare a range of small basic dishes, with the emphasis being on handling fresh ingredients. The aim of the sessions were to help students understand the importance of nutrition in the development of physical and mental performance.

Students were shown how eating well is important to not only members of the Armed Forces, but to any individual who desires to achieve results in their chosen field.

During the presentation, additional information was offered in relation to service lifestyle, sports and adventure training, and career opportunities in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. The 24 students also had a chance to see what a Royal Navy ration pack is like.

Colleges may join forces in merger

SOUTH Staffordshire College and Walsall College could join forces as part of a 'merger opportunity', it has been revealed.

The move has come as a result of an 'area review' commissioned by former Education Minister Nick Boles. The review aims to create fewer colleges and ensure they are more resilient and financially sustainable.

Walsall College, which is rated outstanding by Ofsted and is financially sound, was deemed to be in a good enough position to stay on its own after post-16 institutions were reviewed in the Black Country.

But when those in Staffordshire were looked at, it was recommended South Staffordshire College seek to explore the idea of joining up with Walsall.

The provider, which has campuses in Cannock, Penkridge, Lichfield and Tamworth, is rated good by Ofsted, although chiefs have faced a tough financial year having had to manage a £2 million reduction in funding from the Government.

Documents from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership describe the move as 'merger opportunities'. However, Walsall College bosses said it would be too early to class it as a full merger. They were also

By Carl Jackson

unable to provide any further details about what the implications would be for staff or students.

Principal and chief executive of Walsall College, Jatinder Sharma, said: "I am delighted with the news that Walsall College has received no recommendations as a result of the Black Country area review."

"Following this, Walsall College has been invited by the area review team to support the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area review."

"In response to this invitation, we can confirm that South Staffordshire College and Walsall College are exploring the possibility of forming a closer relationship between the two colleges. The two organisations border each other and there is much alignment between our mission, purpose and values."

Emotional thanks come from parents of Rosie in last walk

THE parents of tragic teenager Rosie Ross have thanked those who took part in a charity walk in memory of their daughter. The final Rosie's Walk charity event was held at Aldridge Old Airport, in aid of the Rosie's Helping Hands charity on July 17.

It marked the 14th annual walk in honour of Rosie, who was killed aged 16 while on a shopping trip in Birmingham, back in 2001. Mother and father Karen and Sean Ross have extended their thanks to those who turned up for the charity event, the biggest organised by Rosie's Helping Hands.

In a joint statement they said: "The sun shone, a rare occurrence for us, and we were joined by many, many people who gave very generous donations. Many wore fresh flowers in their hair - as Rosie had done on that fateful day. "It looks like the target of £15,000 is within reach with over £9,000 already donated or pledged."

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10MP Vaz in anti-litter focus call

The Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

A WALSALL MP has called on the Government to launch a national anti-littering campaign. Valerie Vaz says litter has become 'a huge problem' both locally and nationally, with the volume of it on the streets causing 'a major public health issue'.

The Walsall South MP said: "Areas such as Caldmore Green, where there are high volumes of take-aways and shops, need to be cleaned more regularly as many people who visit this country or form part of new communities, and even those who live here, are not aware of the law on litter."

"One of the ways that we can tackle litter is to have a national public information campaign. Many people recall the logo of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign which reminded us all to dispose of our rubbish. I have called on the Government to restart a national anti-litter public information campaign, which educates and informs citizens."

Rolling back the years with classic cars on show at Arboretum



A classic US Chevrolet Impala on display at the show



A yellow Triumph GT6 alongside a Mark II Ford Escort



Chris Unitt from Darlaston with his pride and joy, a 1924 Model T Hot Rod

AROUND 1,000 people came out to see some of the finest pieces of machinery ever made at the 26th annual Walsall Classic Car show.

The show saw 500 vehicles ranging from vintage sports cars to Hot Rods and motorbikes roll onto Walsall Arboretum to be displayed in all their glory.

The event marked the beginning of a new era for the yearly showcase, which is now being run by Gemini Events after Geoff and Linda Price of Transtar Promotions called time on their management after 25 years.

Stephen Smith, events director at Gemini,

said: "We had a great time, the show was really well attended and we had some fantastic cars on display. A lot of credit must go to Geoff and Linda who have really built up the popularity of the show over the years."

This year marked the 26th anniversary of the show, which includes a range of exhibits on custom and classic motors, with prizes given out to the owners of vehicles that particularly stand out from the crowd. Mr Smith said: "There were a lot of families in attendance and getting through to a younger audience is something we are looking to do."



Martin Lloyd of West Brom with his 1972 Triumph Vitesse



Damon Sykes from Oldbury with his 1932 MG J2

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Flower power to figure again in village

KEEN knitters from across the region are being asked to pick up their needles as part of First World War commemorations. Pelsall's Big Knit will be held for the second year after 30 volunteers helped shroud the village's clock in black and red knitted poppies for Remembrance Day last November – raising £5,000 in the process.

This year, knitters will also be asked to knit woolen cornflowers. During battles on the Western Front, the two flowers were the only colour amidst the devastation and mud of the trenches. Its organiser, Councillor Garry Perry, who represents the village on Walsall Council, is working



Last year's display at the cenotaph

with volunteers from the Royal British Legion for a new design at the village's cenotaph. Councillor Perry added: "I am hoping to get everything done by

October. This will give people the time to knit. We are slightly ahead of last year because we launched it last year in August."

About 30 volunteers helped last year, coming from as far afield as Cannock and Burntwood – but Councillor Perry said he was hopeful of attracting more interest. He added: "I'd seen a lot of tributes around the country following on from the Tower of London with their pottery poppies. I thought if they could do that in a walled garden, what could we do with ours?" For details, call Councillor Perry on 07903 888420 or Sue Hill from the Royal British Legion on 07714 761852.

Hayley throws dreams into the mix with firm

A FORMER ambulance driver and banking executive, who decided to make her dream of baking cakes for a living a reality, has set up a new business.

Former Cheslyn Hay pupil, Hayley Causier has set up The Bake Pod, and now creates edible masterpieces from her home in Cannock.

Having taken the opportunity for redundancy from her career with Lloyds Bank last year, Hayley's been using skills acquired in her previous careers to build her new business. Driving skills once learnt when she trained as an ambulance driver are handy when it comes to safely delivering delicate cakes to their final destinations.

Family

Having always enjoyed baking as a hobby, perhaps following in the footsteps of her Great Grandma who was a head cook/baker at a large Victorian mansion house, Hayley's new career allows her to spend more time with her family, including her partner Aaron and her seven-year-old son, Finlay, who were the inspiration for her new business name.

"We always refer to ourselves as 'three peas in a pod', she said. "So when I needed to think up a new name for the business, The Bake Pod just seemed perfect."

With popular shows like "The Great British Bake Off" fuelling interest in baking, the baking industry is a competitive market to enter, but Hayley



Hayley Causier adds the finishing touches to one of her masterpieces

believes that if you do something right, you'll reap the rewards.

She is invested approximately £10,000 to-date to set up the business, on training, equipment, branding and marketing. She also invested heavily in improving her cake skills with industry renowned baking specialists, and for several weeks she travelled to the Cotswolds every week for intensive one-to-one baking training to learn how to create wonderful lace and piping effects, and lifelike sugar flower creations. When she wasn't training, she'd be practising, doing things over

and over again until they were perfect. Her ambition is to build a business that has quality and professionalism at its core.

She added: "It's been an exciting, but scary process. Giving up a regular full-time salary to start a new business is a daunting prospect – but I'm enjoying every minute of it. As the business grows, I'd love to grow The Bake Pod into a creative baking academy."

Until then, it's back to the kitchen, where there's lots more cakes and cupcakes to bake! For details on The Bake Pod, visit www.thebakepod.co.uk

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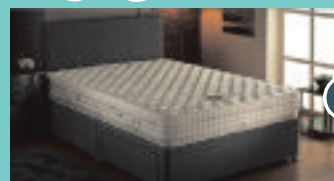


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Caroline moving on from diagnosis



Caroline Le Rue-Brown (second from the right) with friends Jane Shemwell, Eileen Ryan and Sarah Hill

A CANCER patient from Cheslyn Hay is celebrating the end to her radiotherapy treatment by holding a charity fundraising event almost a year to a day since her diagnosis. Caroline Le Rue-Brown was given the devastating news she had breast cancer on August 19 last year.

And despite undergoing months of treatment involving daily hospital visits the 43-year-old former bank worker has also taken the time to organise the fundraiser which involves an evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment in Penkridge on August 20.

Caroline did not know where to turn when she was diagnosed but found a lifeline upon attending the Macmillan Information Centre at Royal Stoke University Hospital. From there she was guided to the Cancer Advocacy and Support Service run by the Beth Johnson Foundation which is funded by Macmillan. As a way of showing her appreciation Caroline is now hoping to raise £10,000.

The fundraising evening will take place at the Mercure Stafford South Hotel in Penkridge on Saturday, August 20.

There will be an auction on the night with prizes up for grabs including a Homebase dining set worth more than £100, Clarins beauty products and a gym membership at the Mercure Hotel. Tickets cost £20 per person and include a three-course dinner and cocktails on arrival. They can be purchased by calling the hotel on 01785 712459.

Wheelies in shops area sees cyclist given a fine

A TEENAGER has been hauled before magistrates after he was caught by police doing 'wheelies' and riding a bicycle at high speeds in a shopping precinct.

Luke Mann admitted a charge of 'dangerous cycling' when he appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court on Friday.

The court was told that officers saw him and a group of youths taking it in turns to do tricks at The Square, New Invention, on January 11. Shops, including a Co-op, Ladbroke's and Greggs, were still open during the ordeal, which took place at about 4.30pm.

Prosecutors said 19-year-old Mann and his friends' behaviour had 'frightened' shoppers.

Ms Rachel Smith, prosecuting, said: "Officers were sat in a marked police car at The Square in New Invention, clearly visible to the group who were taking it in turns to get on the bike and ride as fast as they can around the area, doing wheelies and other tricks."

Officers then spoke to Mann, before taking his details and a photograph of the bike.

Defence solicitor, Mr Mazar Iqbal said that Mann knew one of the police officers and felt he had been 'singled out' from the group.

He also claimed that Mann had been given no information regarding a court case until two weeks ago when he received a summons.

By Jordan Harris

Mr Iqbal said: "To put this into context, the defendant wasn't the only one doing this, he was in a group."

"He has had issues with one of the officers in the past, who knows him."

"He was only told two weeks ago about this court case, I don't know what the delay was but he accepts that what he did was unacceptable."

Mann, of Fairlawn Close, New Invention, was ordered to pay £135 prosecution costs, fined £73 and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge.

When handing out the fine, chief magistrate Ms Pam Nicholls said: "We have listened to both the prosecution and the defence and are aware that you were not on your own. You may feel victimised but what about the people in the shopping precinct at the time?"

"They would have felt victimised too, going out to do their shopping in the late afternoon and seeing people cycling dangerously around them."

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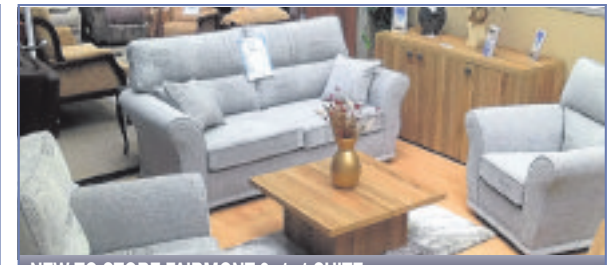
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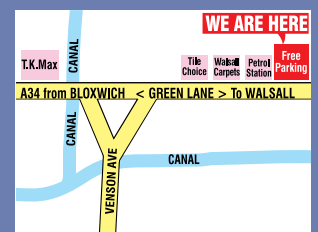
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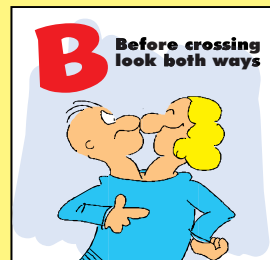


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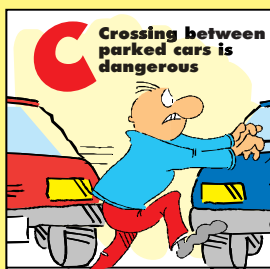
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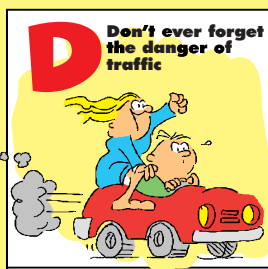
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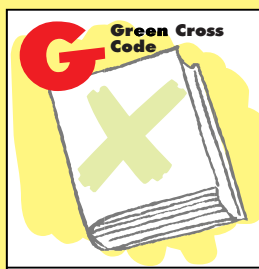
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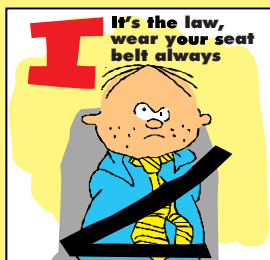
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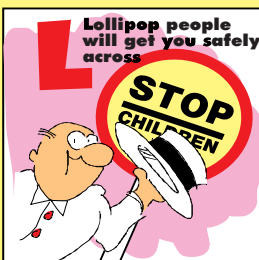
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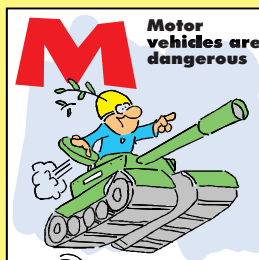
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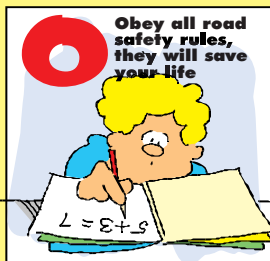
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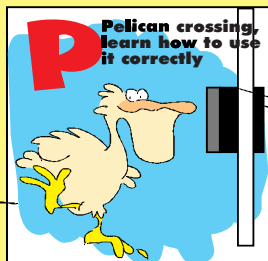
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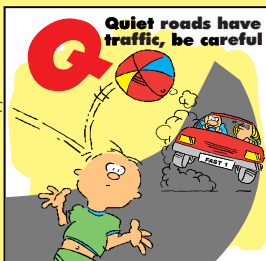
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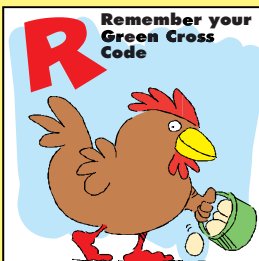
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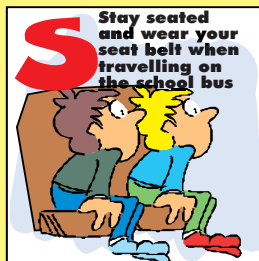
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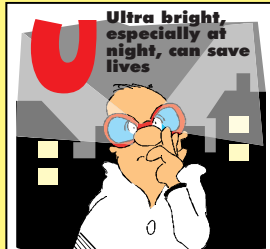
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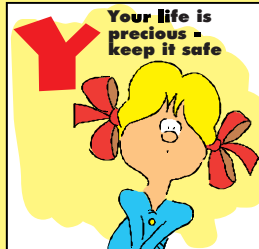
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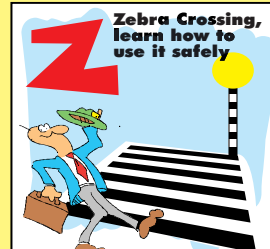
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Friends' shop returns after temporary move



Dot Battison, right, with fellow volunteers at the League of Friends shop, celebrating their re-opening

A SHOP which raises money for specialist equipment at Walsall Manor hospital has reopened after a temporary move.

The League of Friends volunteers are back in business by ward 29 of the hospital, having moved from the West Wing entrance so the area can be cleared for the installation of a new Integrated Critical Care Unit.

Dot Battison, who has been a volunteer for 14 years, said the League of Friends was sad to leave the West Wing but accepted that the move was necessary for the major development that is due to be completed in Winter 2018.

The Trust's Estates and Facilities team has helped out with the shop move and has been supported by Skanska Facilities.

Proceeds from items sold in the League of Friends shop help purchase medical equipment for Walsall Manor Hospital. More than £555,000 has been raised over the last eight years alone.

Dot said: "It's taken a lot of hard work days but we're back open for business now by Ward 29. I'd like to thank Paul Richardson, Paul Chadwick and Julie Watton-Butler from the Trust and Colin Plant from Skanska for helping us with the move as well as my fellow volunteers."

Rapper tells youngsters drugs are not o-Kay

A FUTURE star of hip hop from Walsall has been empowering teenagers across the region ahead of the release of his new single.

Rapper and songwriter Kay Kumar, aged 24, has been visiting schools across the West Midlands over the past two weeks as part of a drug education tour. So far this month Kay has performed to over 2500 young people.

As a multi-instrumentalist Kay has been developing himself as an artist since he studied GCSE music at Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick.

He worked through his late teens to develop a unique style as a rapper which was different to the rest of the UK industry.

Taking inspirations from the everyday challenges he faced growing up, Kay has spent the last 10 years perfecting his carefully crafted vocals which have already been described by blog site Music Crowns as "the re-birth of intellectual rap".

Pitfalls

Prior to the release of his next single 'I'm So Fly' on August 1, he has been educating youngsters on the benefits of living healthy and how to avoid the pitfalls of taking drugs.

He said: "I am absolutely loving the school tour and the positive impact I am having on the kids. It is a two-way thing because I can promote myself and my sound, but at the same time I am able to give something back by answering their questions and helping them to understand a difficult subject such as drug-abuse."

Since signing to The Fa-



Walsall rapper Kay Kumar

mous Company in March this year Kay has performed at a number of events including PopRevue at Freedom in London, which has previously played host to Adele and Sam Smith before their rise to fame, plus opening for West Midlands based artist Beth Sherburn on her first headline tour which came in the wake of her supporting The Saturday's on their greatest hits tour.

Matt Allen from The Famous Company said of his work promoting positive lifestyle choices with schoolchildren: "It is really important to us that our artists support their local communities."

For more information on Kay Kumar and his music, visit www.facebook.com/iamkaykumar

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Any Blind Ltd offers free, no obligation meetings at your home or premises, where their staff will be happy to discuss your ideas. If you live outside of Walsall or the West Midlands, Any



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Any Blind managing director Tony Powell with two of the works' vans

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The firm is a member of the Best of Walsall website; the Walsall Trade Register; FSB (Federation of Small Businesses); Black Country Chamber of Commerce; BBSA (British Blinds and Shutters Association) "Make it Safe" campaign. Managing Director Tony Powell said the firm was looking to in-

crease staff and its turnover this year.

He added: "Customers often comment on the friendly and personal approach of the staff at Any Blind Ltd, which is often not found when using national retailers. The team at Any Blind Ltd will listen closely to your needs, helping to you choose the right blinds at the right price!"

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Sir Lenny backs call to crown unsung heroes

SIR Lenny Henry CBE has become the latest celebrity to endorse the Express & Star's Great Big Thank You Awards.

The much-loved Dudley-born star was at Birmingham City University, where the actor, comedian and writer became Chancellor.

The 57-year-old was knighted last year for services to drama and charity and has been a prominent campaigner on increasing diversity in the arts.

Speaking of the Great Big Thank You Awards, Sir Lenny said: "There are a lot of unsung heroes out there in our communities and it's great the Express & Star is working to recognise these heroes, whether they be superb teachers, community leaders, much-loved neighbours, young stars or just people who go about their daily lives looking to make our communities better places to be."

Ceremony

The awards aim to recognise the diverse range of talent and skills in the Black Country, as well as those that make a difference to our communities.

People from across the region can nominate anyone for one of 10 prestigious awards: Teacher of the Year, Unsung Sporting Hero of the Year, Angel of the Year, Inspirational Leader of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Young Star of the Year, Community Champion of the Year, Grandparents of the Year, Fundraiser of the Year or Environmentalist of the Year.

The awards ceremony will take place on January 19 next year at Molineux, in an event attended by well-known celebrities and significant figures. The aim is to put the spotlight on the people who bring our communities together. Someone who makes a difference to where you live, the work you do, or those you care about. Perhaps they are the person you always turn to



Sir Lenny Henry shows his support for the Thank You! Awards

for advice in, someone who always goes the extra mile to help? Perhaps they have helped your area to improve?

Maybe they are just someone known as being someone you can trust to do the best for you and where you live? Or done their utmost to promote their Black Country roots, someone who has encouraged people to think more positively about the West Midlands and deserves to be 'Ambassador of the Year'?

You may know someone special who, even though they're so young, has strived to achieve their goals in the last 12 months, working hard in their chosen hobby or sport to triumph

against the adversity of an illness or long-term condition. Do you think they deserve the title 'Young Star of the Year'?

There might be someone you know who inspires people, someone with leadership qualities. Are they your 'Inspirational Leader of the Year'? Or maybe there is someone who is a true angel to you and your family, working tirelessly caring for someone you love?

We've launched a website where you can nominate your unsung heroes, and find out more about each category and the sponsors go to: <http://www.start-hankyou.expressandstar.co.uk/>

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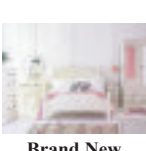
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For further information about becoming a market trader call the Council's Markets Team on 01922 652300







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Walsall Council

Telephone: 01922 652300
marketsadmin@walsall.gov.uk
www.walsall.gov.uk/markets



Jack Holmes at work restoring a Boulton Paul Balliol aircraft



Frank Clarke (right) at work at Boulton Paul with two colleagues



The Boulton Paul Balliol prototype in flight over Wolverhampton Airport



Frank Clarke (in glasses, seated) at Boulton Paul event



The factory in Norwich filled with R.101 girders

Small aircraft section with a big reputation

IN 1936 around 600 Norfolk men moved to Wolverhampton. They had worked for the Aircraft Department of Boulton & Paul Ltd in Norwich, a diverse company most famous for its woodwork, but which had built aircraft since 1915.

The aircraft section remained small but with a big reputation. It had built more Sopwith Camels than Sopwith themselves, the first all-metal aircraft delivered to the Royal Air Force, the first aircraft with an enclosed power operated gun turret and the R.101 Airship, still the largest aircraft ever built in Great Britain.

From 1926-29 the company's factory was filled with all the innumerable parts of the airship's structure, which would make an aircraft nearly 800ft long and 130ft in diameter. Steel girders

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

70ft long, with twist and curve, to a tolerance of plus or minus 0.3 in, which when delivered to the giant airship sheds at Cardington, had to fit perfectly

Uproot

When the aircraft department was sold off, and moved to a new factory at Pendeford, the men had little choice but to uproot their families and move. One of them was Frank Clarke, who was to become the last survivor of the men who worked on the R.101.

In 1938 he completed 25 years service with the company and was given a silver mug, engraved with the signatures of more than 100 of his colleagues, including men who had made the same move from Norwich like Bill Monument

and Alf Charlton, and men newly employed in Wolverhampton, like test pilot, Cecil Feather.

This mug has been donated to the Tettenthall Transport Heritage Centre by his daughter, along with some of Frank's tools, photographs, and wartime ARP badges.

When the mug was donated, Jack Holmes, the first Honorary Member of the TTHC, was present. He too had made the journey from Norwich, with his father, Billy Holmes, mother and brother, and was able to find his father's signature on the mug, and to recognise many of the men who he was later to work alongside, when he was apprenticed.

The Heritage Centre has on display many of the artefacts which has made the city's transport heritage so rich, but also tries to highlight the individual contributions of ordinary men like Frank Clarke and Jack Holmes.



The R.101 airship in flight



The engraved silver mug presented to Frank Clarke

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Miller time

Tommy to Steele the show Page 23



Glitz on stage
Page 23

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The Nightingales



Friday, 7pm
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
John Peel endorsed this influential Birmingham post-punk rock outfit fronted by Robert Lloyd, who were once dubbed 'the misfits' misfits'.
See wolvescivic.co.uk

Imarhan



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Desert blues and funk from an Algerian band with a mesmerising take on Tuareg music - but who prefer leather jackets and jeans to traditional robes.
See hareandhoundskingsheath.skid-netickets.com/

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Friday, 7pm
O2 Institute 3, Birmingham
The Nigeria-born, Ghana-based rising star of the afro beat music scene brings hits laid-back hit-making Banku sound to Brum.
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POP

Troublemaker: Olly Murs Tribute
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Alan Knight
Tomorrow, 9pm, Free
The Crown Pub and Grill,
Leamore, Walsall, WS3 2BH.
Call 01922 451002

ROCK & METAL

The Nightingales
Tonight at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Hair Rock Experience
Tonight at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Stone Broken
Tomorrow at 6.45pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Don Broco
Sun at 7pm, Mon at 7pm,
£15
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Smiths Tribute 'These Smiths', Joy Division Tribute 'Transmission', New Order Tribute 'True Order'
Tomorrow at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Beautiful Sound: The Beautiful South Tribute
Sun at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

U2-2: U2 Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Tax The Heat
Tomorrow at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL FUNK & MOTOWN

Mahalia
Tonight at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Mr Eazi
Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Femi And The Inrhythms
Tonight at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Lisa Stanley And Her Band
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL

Palestine Youth Orchestra
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Hacienda Classical
Sun at 3pm - 9pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

A Skegness Weekender Preview - Northern Soul
Tomorrow at 8pm, £8/£10
West Bromwich Town Hall,
B70 8DT. Call 0121 569 2616

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight - tomorrow at 10.30pm - 3.30am,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Nicetraxuk Release Party
Tonight - tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

THEATRE

Tres Tres Cabaret
Tomorrow at 8pm, £15.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Mamma Mia!
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2.30pm - 5.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28 - £60
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

The Noise Next Door Noise In The Hood
Tomorrow at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy Club
Sun at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight and tomorrow at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

Playful Penguins: Penguin Ice Adventure
Tomorrow at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Sun at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Food Markets
Sun at 10.30am,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Summer Holiday Family Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
Cadbury World, Bourneville,
Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Crazy Clownfish: Talk
Tomorrow at 10.45am, Tue at 10.45am, Wed at 10.45am,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

The Hollywood Special Effects Show
Tue at 6pm, Wed at 2pm, 7pm,
£14.25 - £53
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Out'Ray'geous Rays: Talk
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Sun at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Mon at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Wed at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Oceanic Adventures: Ocean Tunnel
Tomorrow at 12pm, 4.30pm, Sun at 12pm, 2pm, Mon at 2pm, 4.30pm, Tue at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Wed at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

OurShakespeare In The Park
Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Insane Championship Wrestling: Seven Nation Army
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Artforum
Wed at 4.30pm - 6.30pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Young Artists
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Kings Heath Food Assembly
Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Land, Sea And Air
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall,
WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Lucy Howard
Mon at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm, Tue at 9.30am - 4pm, 6.30pm - 9pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
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Kan Xuan
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Jesse Bruton
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

All The World's A Stage
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Inspire 16: The Young Creatives Of Birmingham
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

A Big Bang: The Origins Of The Pop Art Collection Part 2
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Tales Of The City
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Craft Goes Pop
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

The Lanchester Grand Circus
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Tue at 11am - 5pm, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
Bantock House,
Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
Call 01902 552195

Curious Beauty
Tomorrow at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Turning To See: From Van Dyck To Lucian Freud
Tomorrow at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Laura Oldfield Ford: Chthonic Reverber
Wed at 12pm - 5pm, Thu at 12pm - 5pm,
Grand Union, Minerva Works,
Birmingham, B5 5RT.
Call 0121 643 9079

Birmingham People And Change In The Inner-City
Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Steele in the mood for big band hero



Tommy Steele, centre, with musicians and actors in *The Glenn Miller Story*, returning to the region Pic: Pamela Raith

TOMMY Steele's portrayal of American big band legend Glenn Miller in a new Bill Kenwright production thrilled fans over the past year, including audiences at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

So the show is enjoying an extended run that will take it through to the end of 2016 and it will feature at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from August 23 until 27. The show features a 16-piece swing orchestra as well as singers, dancers and actors telling the story of one the 20th century's most iconic musicians.

For the past 15 or so years theatre mogul Bill Kenwright and his idol Tommy Steele have had supper two or three times every year. They have spoken about the past – mainly Tommy's past – as Bill can never have enough of Tommy's stories about rock 'n' roll's golden era.

It was when discussing a particular favourite of theirs; the James Stewart box office smash *The Glenn Miller Story*, that Bill discovered that his all-encompassing love for Elvis was equal only to Tommy's adoration for Glenn Miller and his Orchestra.

Steele said: "I remember he (Miller) was on around our house all the time on the radio during the Second World War. I actually saw him when I was eight at the Albert Hall.

"My dad came home one night and told mum that he had tickets to see Glenn Miller. She was doing cartwheels, thinking she'd died and gone to heaven.

"It was the time of wartime austerity, and that wonderful sound, it's the kind of thing stays with you for the rest of your life. I've been a fan ever since."

It's going to be a-mazing

FOR the last 12 years, every Saturday night between September and Christmas has been laced with venomous comments courtesy of acid-tongued judge Craig Revel Horwood on flagship BBC TV show, *Strictly Come Dancing*.

His remarks, including 'a dancing disaster darling', 'spatula hands' and the wielding of his paddle with the number two on it have become legendary, yet he is the judge all the celebrities long to please. To get a nine, or if you are really, really lucky, a 10 from Craig, is the stuff dreams are made of.

He was recently at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham to talk all things *Sister Act* the Musical, his new venture, starring X Factor winner and Bodyguard star Alexandra Burke (pictured with Craig). The dancer, choreographer, theatre and TV star, Craig's appearance belies his 51 years and his personality couldn't be further from the wicked TV persona. He is warm, welcoming, friendly, witty, handsome and charismatic; not at all the waspish caricature.

Craig, who in recent years brought revivals of *Chess* and *Fiddler On The Roof* out on tour, explained: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to reinvent *Sister Act* and it is going to be a more stylised production than any of my other shows.

"All the actors play the music as well, and they are all of a brilliant standard. It is alarming when you first see a whole bunch of nuns with saxophones darling," he laughed. "Then it becomes wonderful!"

Sister Act the Musical is at the Alex September 12 to 17 then Wolverhampton Grand, February 27 to March 4, 2017.

Absolute fabulous reissue of musical

WITH a star turn and a theme song by David Bowie, 1980s musical *Absolute Beginners* is out on Blu-ray and DVD to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

With hindsight, the colourful tribute to 1950s London looks oddly innocent in its depiction of Soho. Director Julien Temple gets maximum value from Patsy Kensit and Eddie O'Connell as the couple present at the birth of British youth culture.

Look out for Lionel Blair, Sandie Shaw, Ray Davies and even Bruno Tonioli in cameo roles. The joyful song and dance numbers make up for acting flaws and the film gets a high definition revamp for Blu-ray.

Typically tropical weekend in Brum

REGGAE music, dance, fashion and typically tropical dishes will feature at the Birmingham Caribbean Festival in Centenary Square from Friday to Sunday.

The five-year-old celebration of Caribbean culture, arts, food and drink is being held from 11am to 9pm daily, and entry is by donation.

Entertainment will include the Reggae Reggae Sauce man Levi Roots (Saturday), Bob Marley tribute band Legend Live, Gabbidon from Steel Pulse, poet Ita Gooden (AKA Miss Culture Jam), Jamaican reggae singer Bushman and Dynasty Dancers. For details see birminghamcaribbeanfestival.org website.

Broadway hit has its own peer group

CULT Broadway hit *Urinetown* The Musical is being brought to one of Birmingham's smaller venues.

Set in a not-so-distant future where a water shortage has led to a private bathroom ban, this Tony Award winning satire on capitalism in a fee-to-pee tomorrow will be running for your convenience at The Old Joint Stock pub venue. After opening last night (Thursday) it runs until August 6 including weekend matinees at the popular Temple Row hostelry. See oldjointstock.co.uk for details.

Meanwhile, musical blockbuster *Mamma Mia!* continues at Birmingham Hippodrome.

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CHOICE



Ken Loach

Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach (BBC2, 9.10pm)

Premiere. A biography of the celebrated British director, catching up with him as he enjoys his retirement. During a career spanning more than 50 years, Ken Loach specialised in creating socially aware dramas and documentaries. Among the most successful were *Cathy Come Home*, *Kes* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, the latter of which secured Loach a Palm d'Or award. Here, Ken revisits the production of his most celebrated movies, and shares details of projects shelved or pilloried, including a stage play cancelled during rehearsals, and a personal tragedy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. With Tom Daley, Dina Asher-Smith and Max Whitlock. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.05** Now You See It. **5.35** The Getaway Car.

6.25 BBC News.

6.35 Regional Programme.

6.45 **Pointless Celebrities.** Aled Davies, Tessa Sanderson, David Wilkie, Mary Peters, Jason Gardener, Marlon Devonish, Tanni Grey-Thompson and Sally Gunnell take part in an Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.

7.35 **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Sonali Shah introduces the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws, and meets the "team behind the team" helping British athletes prepare for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

8.30 **The Musketeers.** Death strikes at the Louvre, and Treville whisks away the vulnerable young Dauphin to protect him from the machinations of Grimaud, Gaston and the Duke of Lorraine. Concludes on Monday at 9pm.

9.25 **Casualty.** Grace discovers the truth about Connie and Jacob while accompanying a friend to A&E, and Robyn's ex Glen reveals he has been hiding a devastating secret. Last in the series.

10.15 **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.35 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** A hypnotist provides the entertainment at the triplets' baptism – and Agnes soon finds herself under his spell. Meanwhile, Mark delivers some heartbreaking news. (R)

11.05 **Live at the Apollo.** (R)

11.50 **Film: Reign of Fire.** (2001) Fantasy adventure.

1.25 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 **The Women's Football Show.** (R) **7.10** **Film: City Beneath the Sea.** (1970) **8.40** **Film: Hotel for Dogs.** (2009) **10.10** **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.10** **Natural World – Snow Monkeys.** (R) **12.00** **The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure.** (R) **1.00** **Flag It!** (R) **2.00** **Golf: Women's British Open.**

6.00 **Cycling: RideLondon Classique.** Jill Douglas presents live coverage of the RideLondon Classique, a newly credited UCI Women's WorldTour race, as 20 teams battle it out on a 5.5km circuit on the streets of London.

7.00 **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham revisits Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Plus, David Owen Norris hits another Chord of the Week.

7.40 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don gets to grips with summer pruning as he tackles his espaliered pear trees, while Joe Swift considers ways of putting a contemporary twist on traditional bedding plants. (R)

8.10 **Grand Tours of Scotland.** Paul Murton visits places connected to Robert Burns, travelling from Alloway to Mauchline, then heading for the coast and discovering the delights of Bute's bathing and betting.

8.40 **Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea's power and communications services are cut off, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. Starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)

9.10 **Film: Versus: The Life and Films of Ken Loach.** (2016) Premiere. The celebrated director shares stories about the making of his most successful films, and details of shelved projects – including one hit by a personal tragedy.

10.40 **Versailles.** While Louis proposes an audacious alliance with England, along with an unexpected envoy to negotiate it, Beatrice fears her secrets being revealed; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.40 **Film: Sweet Sixteen.** (2002) A boy resorts to all manner of schemes to rescue his mother from a life of danger on the streets of a Scottish coastal town. Drama, starring Martin Compston and Annmarie Fulton.

1.25 **Film: Love Like Poison.** (2010) **2.45** **This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **6.25** **Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.55** **Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00** **Sooty.** (R) **7.15** **Super 4.** (R) **7.35** **Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **8.00** **Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes.** (R) **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** **Weekend.** **9.25** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20** **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **12.20** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.35** **The Wine Show.** **1.40** **Wild Animal Reunions.** (R) **2.40** **Doc Martin.** (R) **3.40** **Planet's Got Talent.** (R) **4.10** **Britain's Favourite Dogs.** (R) **5.10** **The Chase.** (R)

6.15 **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.25** **ITV News:** Weather.

6.45 **You've Been Framed! Gold.** Harry Hill narrates more comical mishaps, including a builder falling through a ceiling, and a lorry driver's unfortunate encounter with a lamp-post. (R)

7.15 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 **Tom Daley: Diving for Gold.** A profile of the diver, providing an insight into his sporting, public and personal life. The documentary looks at his decision to reveal his relationship with fiancée Dustin Lance Black in 2013, his change of coaches and the gamble of learning a new dive in pursuit of Olympic gold in Rio.

9.00 **1966: A Nation Remembers.** Terrence Stamp narrates the story of the English football team's World Cup triumph through the eyes of those who attended matches at the tournament. Among those who recount their memories are Irish students who operated the Wembley Stadium scoreboard, and a policeman who was told to swap the Jules Rimet Trophy for a replica in the victorious team's changing room.

10.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

10.15 **Film: Crank.** (2006) An assassin is poisoned and resorts to desperate measures to keep himself alive long enough to exact a fitting revenge. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.

11.55 **River Monsters.** (R) **12.25** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

7.00 **Swansea Triathlon.** **7.30** **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** **7.55** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00** **The Morning Line.** **10.00** **Car SOS.** (R) **11.00** **The Superhumans Show.** **11.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.25** **Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.30** **Glorious Goodwood: Channel 4 Racing.** Coverage from Goodwood and Newmarket. **4.15** **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** **5.20** **Channel 4 News.** **5.45** **Formula 1 2016 German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.**

7.30 **Britain's Favourite Superhero.** Documentary making extensive use of interviews and clips from big-budget Hollywood blockbusters to explore the story of how superheroes – once exclusively found on the pages of comic books – found their way to the silver screen, becoming bankable cinematic icons in the process. A Channel 4 poll outlines which do-gooders the British public have taken to their hearts, and the programme charts the history of big-screen heroics from the release of the ground-breaking Superman: The Movie in 1978 through to the high-profile releases arriving in cinemas this year. Along the way, viewers are given a chance to revisit Tim Burton's noir-themed iteration of Batman in the 1990s, the angst-filled antics of the X-Men and Spider-Man in the early noughties, and the far-reaching storylines of Marvel's inter-connected Avengers films. All this culminates as the poll results reveals which five heroes have captured British imaginations to become the nation's favourites.

9.00 **Film: Iron Man 2.** (2010) Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

11.30 **Film: Terminator Salvation.** (2009) Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Christian Bale.

1.40 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **2.30** **Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.30** **Double Your House for Half the Money.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **8.25** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **9.00** **The Saturday Show Live.** **11.00** **Funnist Fails, Falls & Flops.** (R) **11.25** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.20** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.20** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.20** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **3.20** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **4.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)

6.15 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy get into a doorstep confrontation with a debtor who wants to prove her family business is bankrupt. However, when tempers flare Brian is assaulted and the agents call the police. Elsewhere, Paul Bonthill and Steve Pinner face evicting three properties owned by the same landlord in north London, and Brian and Delroy Anglin collect £2,000 debt owed to a vet in Kent. (R)

7.10 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** A taxi driver is murdered just hours after sending an e-mail to an old alias that Callen used when he went undercover to investigate three marines who stole \$5million. (R)

8.00 **NCIS: Ned Dornegay's CIA officer mother Joanna Teague helps the team tackle the Calling following her son's death.** Naval crime drama, guest starring Mimi Rogers. Last in the series.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the new housemates' first full day in the Big Brother house. The celebrities may be used to staring down a lens as part of their working lives, but Big Brother's 24-hour spy-like devices are not the TV, movie and paparazzi cameras they are used to facing. It remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public and who is taking a more laid-back approach to their public incarceration.

10.00 **The Funny Thing About Holidays.** Johnny Vegas is joined by a selection of celebrities and comedians, who share some of their most memorable tales as they explore the many pitfalls of the traditional summer holiday.

11.05 **Family Feud – My Big Family Fallout.** (R)

12.00 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00** **GP's: Behind Closed Doors.** (R) **4.50** **Divine Designs.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 **Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track.** **8.00** **Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered.** **9.00** **Beck: The Silent Scream.** **10.25** **Imagine – Bette Midler: The Divine Miss M.** **11.40** **Spike Milligan: Love, Life and Peace.** **1.10** **The Kinks at the BBC.** **2.15** **Cilla at the BBC.** **3.15** **Top of the Pops.** **1982** **3.50** **Close**

ITV2

11.25 **Funnist Ever You've Been Framed! Gold.** **12.30** **Ninja Warrior UK.** **1.30** **Film: Batteries Not Included.** (1987) **2.30** **FYI Daily.** **2.35** **Film: Batteries Not Included.** (1987) **3.35** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure.** (1989) **4.35** **FYI Daily.** **4.40** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure.** (1989) **5.25** **Film: King Kong.** (2005) **6.25** **FYI Daily.** **6.30** **Film: King Kong.** (2005) **9.00** **Film: The Dark Knight.** (2008) **10.00** **FYI Daily.** **10.05** **Film: The Dark Knight.** (2008) **12.00** **Family Guy.** **1.30** **American Dad!** **2.25** **The Cleveland Show.** **2.40** **Teleshopping.** **5.50** **ITV2 Nightscreen**

ITV3

12.45 **Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's.** (1957) **1.45** **FYI Daily.** **1.50** **Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's.** (1957) **2.35** **Jane Eyre.** **4.55** **Midsomer Murders.** **7.00** **Doc Martin.** **8.00** **Lewis.** **10.00** **Foyle's War.** **12.00** **Inspector Morse.** **2.05** **ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30** **Teleshopping**

ITV4

11.30 **Pawn Stars.** **2.05** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **3.05** **Film: The Land That Time Forgot.** (1975) **4.15** **FYI Daily.** **4.20** **Film: The Land That Time Forgot.** (1975) **5.00** **Monster Carp.** **6.00** **The Motorbike Show.** **7.00** **The Hand of God: 30 Years On.** **8.00** **Film: Open Range.** (2003) **9.15** **FYI Daily.** **9.20** **Film: Open Range.** (2003) **10.50** **Film: Unforgiven.** (1992) **11.50** **FYI Daily.** **11.55** **Film: Unforgiven.** (1992) **1.25** **Minder.** **2.15** **Ax Men.** **3.00** **Teleshopping**

E4

12.00 **Rich Kids of Instagram.** **1.00** **New Girl.** **1.30** **The Goldbergs.** **3.30** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **4.30** **Film: Gulliver's Travels.** (2010) **6.10** **Rude(ish) Tube Shorts.** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00** **Film: Rush.** Hour 3 (2007) **10.45** **Gogglebox.** **12.55** **Rude Tube.** **2.00** **First Dates.** **2.55** **Gogglebox.** **3.50** **2 Broke Girls.** **4.30** **Rude(ish) Tube.** **4.50** **Revenge**

Film4

11.00 **Captain Ron.** (1992) **1.00** **Sister Act.** (1992) **3.05** **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.** (2011) **5.05** **Napoleon Dynamite.** (2004) **6.55** **Tower Heist.** (2011) **9.00** **Predator.** (1987) **11.10** **Bound.** (1996) **1.25** **Alien.** (1979)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Secrets In the Attic, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A teenage girl moves into an old house that her mother has inherited and discovers a youth in the attic, where he has been hiding out for months. She then finds out that he has been accused of murder and has to decide whether he can be trusted. Thriller, starring Abbie Cobb and Max Lloyd-Jones. (2016)

TUESDAY

Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.30pm

Rival figure skaters bury the hatchet after they discover a loophole enabling them to compete in the world championships as a same-sex pair. Comedy, with Will Ferrell and Jon Heder. (2007)

WEDNESDAY

In the Electric Mist, BBC1, 11.15pm

A recovering alcoholic detective investigates the discovery of a body in a swamp, where he witnessed a murder as a boy. As he sets out to prove a local gangster is involved in a more recent killing, he begins having visions of ghostly Confederate soldiers. Mystery based on James Lee Burke's novel, starring Tommy Lee Jones and John Goodman. (2009)



Public Enemies, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Devil's Teardrop, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A serial killer terrorises Washington DC, with a ransom note the only clue to his identity. A handwriting analyst agrees to help the FBI with their investigation, but also has to deal with fighting his ex-wife for custody of their children. Crime drama, starring Tom Everett Scott and Natasha Henstridge. (2010)

FRIDAY

Public Enemies, ITV, 10.40pm

Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)

Clare gives a preview as the games commence

There's no doubt that the Olympic Games are the world's biggest sporting event.

In Rio this year will be more than 10,500 competitors from 207 nations, and there will be thousands more team officials, media representatives, security personnel and volunteers flocking to the city.

And that's before we even mention the spectators...

Many will have applied for tickets, but millions more will watch at home – a global audience of around two billion is expected to tune in.

Four years ago, it was estimated that 90 per cent of the British population watched coverage of some kind of the London games, which were a huge success. It's unlikely that the same numbers will be present again – but there are those die-hard sports fans who will still be keen to follow British athletes as they take to the road, track, field or pool.

Unfortunately, the build-up to Rio has been somewhat marred by various controversies, including host nation Brazil's political instability and

economic crisis, security concerns, sanitation and, of course, Zika. The virus has already prompted several sportspeople to pull out, including tennis stars Milos Raonic (who was runner-up at this year's Wimbledon to Andy Murray) and Tomas Berdych, golfers Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, and cyclist Tejay van Garderen.

Nevertheless, British fans are expecting big things from their team, particularly after the heroics displayed four years ago.

"London 2012 saw the likes of Jessica Ennis, Mo Farah, Greg Rutherford, Nicola Adams and the Brownlee brothers become household names, as the nation took them to their hearts following their monumental sporting success on home turf", says one of the BBC's key presenters, Clare Balding, whose own star rose after her acclaimed appearances at the Games.

"All eyes will be on them again this summer, while track cyclist Laura Trott and dressage star Charlotte Dujardin are vying to become the most decorated British female Olympians in history."

But she's also quick to point out that potential gold medal-winners such as swimmer Adam Peaty, boxer Joe Joyce, diver Jack Laugher and athletes Dina Asher-Smith and Katarina Johnson-Thompson also have the potential to make their mark.

The BBC is certainly throwing its weight behind its coverage of Rio. It will broadcast more than 3,000 hours of the games across all BBC platforms, and is launching a new app to help fans catch up with the latest action.

Director of BBC Sport, Barbara Slater, says: "The BBC's coverage of London 2012 was the most watched TV event in UK broadcasting history and we are committed to bringing the same high quality, in-depth coverage to Rio 2016.

"The incredible offering across all our platforms will deliver every moment of the Games through a truly interactive, personalised experience."

Coverage begins tonight as Clare Balding presents a preview, which is followed at 11.40pm by the opening ceremony from the Maracana.



Clare Balding presents Rio 2016, Friday, BBC1, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Brief Encounters

ITV, 9pm

Dawn and Russell's wedding reception at the pub is the scene for a number of confrontations, heart-to-hearts and surprises. Terry storms out after an argument with Steph, while the bride's father Len turns up unannounced but is he there to make amends or cause trouble? Later, Pauline bumps into Johnny and tells him untruths about Steph's feelings for him as she desperately tries to protect herself and Brian. Drama, starring Penelope Wilton, Sophie Rundle, Angela Griffin and Sharon Rooney.

TUESDAY

Borderline

Channel 5, 10pm

Immigration is currently an even more emotive subject than usual, but Channel 5 is here to show us that it can also be a laughing matter with its new series Borderline, a mock-documentary following the UK Border Force. If the premise wasn't risky enough, the channel isn't playing safe with the format either – like its acclaimed drama Suspects, which returns for a new run this week, the basic plot elements of Borderline are scripted, but the cast improvises the dialogue.

WEDNESDAY

Gogglebox: Brexit Special

Channel 4, 9pm

Social media, pubs, workplaces, even some playgrounds – for the past few weeks, they've all hosted impassioned debates about Britain's decision to leave the EU. But while some of us may now know more than we ever wished to about the political beliefs of our friends, families and co-workers, what do the Goggleboxers make of it all? In this special one-off episode, the regular households will comment on everything from Brexit to our new Prime Minister Theresa May (and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson).

A Granny's Guide to the Modern World

Channel 4, 10.35pm

New series. Barry Humphries and a team of senior investigative reporters provide an outsider's perspective of life in 2016, through reports, hidden camera experiments and comedy sketches. The results provide a fresh take on the mechanics of British society and culture, and a comedic look at the modern world's attitude to the country's burgeoning OAP population.

THURSDAY

Mo Farah: Race of His Life

BBC1, 9pm

A profile of the distance-running star, who won gold at both the 5,000m and 10,000m in the 2012 London Olympics. Farah discusses his personal and sporting life, and meets up with his twin brother in the small African country of Djibouti where he spent his early childhood. He also discusses allegations about his coach and demonstrates how hard he pushes himself at training camps in Ethiopia, Arizona and France. With contributions from Usain Bolt and Sebastian Coe.

The Gift of Hearing

BBC2, 11.05pm

Lauren Laverne narrates the story of Jo Milne, the Tyneside woman who became an internet sensation when a home video of her hearing for the first time after receiving implants surfaced on the web.



Mo Farah: Race of His Life, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

FRIDAY

Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year

Channel 4, 8pm

Architect, presenter, lecturer and writer George Clarke's mission to find Britain's 2016 Shed of the Year continues as he and his fellow judges turn their attention to the Eco and Unexpected categories. Eco includes a mud hut in Norfolk and a shed on wheels, while featuring in the new Unexpected category is a shed located on a flood plain designed to rise up with whatever water levels surround it. There is also an allegedly haunted shed, so viewers might wish to make sure they are not alone before tuning in.

Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart

BBC2, 9pm

New series. The course of the seasons, beginning with spring, which sees the hills on fire on fire as the annual muir-burn takes place in the Cairngorms. As the flames rise, an osprey returns to a valley near Loch Ness, with its movement captured in super slow-motion at 800 frames per second. Red squirrels and roe deer prepare for the breeding season, while a cataclysmic downpour has major consequences for a family of dippers, whose youngsters are forced to fledge early before the nest is swept away. Narrated by Ewan McGregor.

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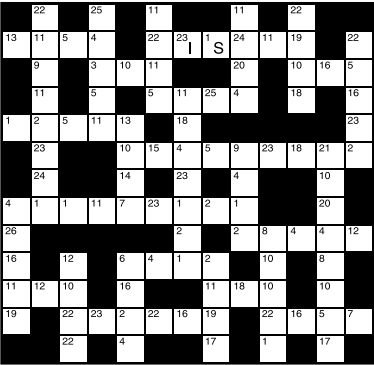
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CHRONICLE

BRAIN GYM No.388

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
J M P Q D S L A T X H W I
K C G N Z V O U B F R E Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

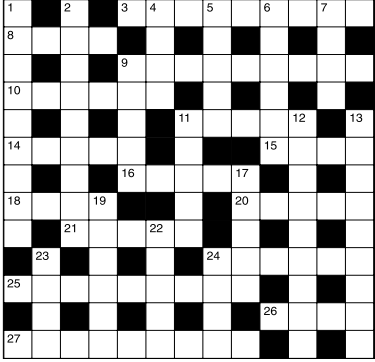
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 3. They're not what they seem in sport, so I'm upset (9)
- 8. Part of an intermediate academic period (4)
- 9 & 16Ac. Appears as the target for the marksman does (5,4,5)
- 10. More insensitive to mathematical quantity (6)
- 11. Entitled me to come in and change (5)
- 14. This will stick cheap jewellery (5)
- 15. When accompanied by fire, this produces methane (4)
- 16. See 9 Across
- 18. Stake boat (4)
- 20. This can be measured to a certain degree (5)
- 21. The whole taken together is coarse (5)
- 24. Affliction coming from hooligans or rowdies (6)
- 25. Declaration of intent is clear and nothing more (9)
- 26. Double commendation on return (4)
- 27. It lists the events for professional lightweight (9)

Down

- 1. Duct underneath spectators' seating is a water outlet (5-4)
- 2. Showing hopeful signs of taking the pledge (9)
- 4. To secure the boat you need space on return (4)
- 5. Ring Margaret and then get a letter (5)
- 6. Closely followed a description of most animals (6)
- 7. Assess the speed (4)
- 9. The sequence, we hear, for a Roman goddess (5)
- 11. Spiced drink for North African potentate (5)
- 12. Ground/sea arrangement can be full of hazards (9)
- 13. Hurry with water supply for wild blue flower (9)
- 17. Thanks to a cry of disapproval, it's not allowed (5)
- 19. Carrying out judicial work is annoying (6)
- 22. Italian city is brown when burnt, we hear! (5)
- 23. Sounds like one fruit, but it's two (4)
- 24. Check the flower-holder (4)



Quick Clues:

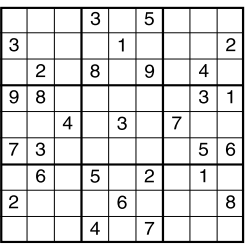
Across

- 3. Competent (9)
- 8. Spike (4)
- 9. Chastise (9)
- 10. Happens (6)
- 11. Dreads (5)
- 14. Stagers (5)
- 15. Resound (4)
- 16. Shatter (5)
- 18. Fashionable (4)
- 20. Fruit (5)
- 21. List (5)
- 24. Severe (6)
- 25. Unimportant person (9)
- 26. Great (4)
- 27. Persevered (9)

Down

- 1. Wrong (9)
- 2. Disgrace (9)
- 4. Poisonous tree (4)
- 5. Supple (5)
- 6. Shape (6)
- 7. Consumes (4)
- 9. Annoyed (5)
- 11. Fire (5)
- 12. Doubting (9)
- 13. Anticipate (9)
- 17. Rash (5)
- 19. Fondle (6)
- 22. Water-lily (5)
- 23. Centre (4)
- 24. Inflamed eyelid (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	6	1	3	5	4	2	7
5	2	1	4	7	8	3	6	9
7	3	4	8	2	9	1	5	6
9	1	2	3	4	7	8	5	6
4	6	5	2	8	1	7	3	9
3	7	8	6	5	1	2	9	4
6	5	3	9	1	4	7	8	2
2	4	9	7	8	6	5	3	1
1	8	7	5	2	3	6	4	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Feigned; 7 Unbar; 9 Sly; 10 Preaching; 12 Furthermore; 15 Presumptive; 17 Mismanage; 19 Two; 21 Celia; 22 Waisted.
Down: 1 Meats; 2 Ego; 3 Hair; 4 On the move; 5 Banners; 8 Talent; 11 Nursemaid; 13 Taming; 14 Praises; 16 Sweet; 18 Gear; 20 Asp. QUICK - Across: 6 Acquire; 7 Grope; 9 Fit; 10 Rewarding; 12 Calculation; 15 Declaration; 17 Countless; 19 Don; 21 Heart; 22 Cranium. Down: 1 Acid; 2 Run; 3 Free; 4 Eruption; 5 Sponsor; 8 Varlet; 11 Gallantry; 13 Circle; 14 Recover; 16 Vogue; 18 Sure; 20 End.

Quiz

- 1. Of which Christian group is a Latter-day Saint a member?
- 2. Who is the editor of The Times newspaper?
- 3. To which family of birds does the roadrunner belong?
- 4. Who captained the Australian side in the 2005 Ashes series?
- 5. What is the technical name for nettle rash?
- 6. What is the capital of the Ukraine?
- 7. What type of flower is a michaelmas daisy?
- 8. During which revolution was the Reign of Terror?
- 9. Which animal was once called a foul marten?
- 10. What flavour does the liqueur curacao have?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Celtic; 2 Queen; 3 Edward VIII; 4 H Rider Haggard; 5 Oxygen; 6 Nagasaki; 7 White blood cell or corpuscle; 8 Diego Maradona; 9 Biscayne Bay; 10 Ben Crenshaw.
Niner: MAGNITUDE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

254416 gives an implement,
972416 gives a tool,
938 gives a weapon.



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Mako the most of it – the hypercoaster is 200ft high and reaches speeds of 73mph



Eye of the tiger – get close to wildlife



Flipping fantastic – swim with dolphins at Discovery Cove



Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails

Getting hyper over the sheer size and height of these rollercoasters

EVERYTHING is bigger in America. From the huge family Jeeps on the roads to the humongous portion sizes in restaurants not to mention the massive out-of-town shopping malls.

So, it's no surprise that the same goes for the country's rollercoasters, much to the delight of thrillseekers.

Except they aren't just the best coasters in the world, some are also the biggest, known as hypercoasters. The definition of a hypercoaster is any rollercoaster with a height or drop of more than 200ft.

The latest hypercoaster to be built in The States is Mako, named after the species of shark, at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida. Myself, along with a group of 15 hardened coaster riders from the UK and Ireland, ventured across the Atlantic to check out

Orlando – by Alex Ross

the new ride. Mako opened last month and is just one of many rides at SeaWorld. It's huge. Soaring up into the skyline, the half-a-mile long blue rails can be seen on the approach. And the screams can heard from a distance too.

I got a sneaky first ride on it, but nothing could have prepared me for this. Scaling up 200ft, before plummeting and reaching speeds of 73mph, it was exhilarating from start to finish. The only disappointment was my inability to keep my cool.

A video, later kindly circulated online, showed me screaming like a six-year-old girl, not a 32-year-old man. Not great for my street cred.

If you're not a fan of rollercoasters, there are lots of other less daring things to do. Whether it be killer whale displays or visit-

ing a penguin's home you can keep your feet firmly on the ground. And for those wanting a break from the action, there are plenty of cafés and bars where you can refuel.

During our stay we were based at the Hilton in Orlando, just a stone's throw from most of the city's attractions, shopping malls and restaurants.

Picturesque

Orlando is the country's most popular tourist destination with its theme parks drawing in visitors from both home and abroad. But in contrast to the screams and roars from the roller coasters, the state is quite green and picturesque.

Its wealth of attractions means it's a great family destination with so much to do to keep both children and adults entertained day and night. And when it comes to food, you'll be spoilt for choice.

The next theme park we went to took us much closer to nature. At Discovery Cove you can swim with dolphins or snorkel in water filled with tropical fish.

For me, swimming with the dolphins was a highlight. Watching them from boats or on television, I've always been fascinated but it was something else to touch them and be carried by them across the waves.

The next day we took the bus to Tampa Bay and Busch Gardens. We were too early for the opening of Cobra's Curse, although the park managers gave us a tour. Even the queue area, which featured live snakes, was scary. But there was still plenty of other things to do. The park has 12,000 animals and there was a chance to see more of them with a safari.

Our final stop was water park Aquatica where the highlight was a vertical drop slide.



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185/60/15	£32.00	£119.00
185/65/15	£35.00	£129.00
195/50/15	£35.00	£129.00
195/60/15	£35.00	£129.00
195/65/15	£35.00	£129.00
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

29
The Chronicle Thursday, July 28, 2016

Extended five-bed detached executive family residence

Immaculately presented, this extended five-bedroomed detached executive residence in Coppice Oak, Willenhall, is set back from the road within a secure gated private community made up of just four detached properties.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £409,995.

The stand-out features of this property include a stunning extended lounge area (60sqm) with bi-fold doors to the large private rear garden, a spacious family dining room, a high specification breakfast kitchen with fully integrated appliances (with space for an American fridge-freezer) and separate utility, a large gymnasium/garage with bi-fold doors to the front, five double bedrooms, en-suite to the master, a family bathroom, a substantial rear garden and parking for several vehicles.

A spokesman for the selling agents said: "This really is an unmissable opportunity to acquire one of the area's finest properties within this private and secluded location."

The property is accessed via a block paved driveway to the composite double glazed entrance door with side panels.

The entrance hall has stairs off and there is a WC, a dining room a modern feature fireplace with brushed chrome inset living flame gas fire and marble hearth and surround, French doors through to the lounge, a bay window and Junckers black oak solid wood flooring. The lounge has feature chimney breast with floor to ceiling high gloss tiles with modern glass fronted gas fire, bi-folding doors to the rear, French doors also to the rear garden and Junckers black oak solid wood flooring.

The study overlooks the rear. The kitchen/diner has hi-gloss doors in white and walnut, complimentary worktops over, glass splash back, integrated dishwasher, integrated double oven with five ring gas hob and chimney extractor over, integrated microwave, separate breakfast bar with storage beneath with curved cupboards and integrated wine cooler and Karndean flooring. The utility room has recently been re-fitted and has the gym and garage off.

WILLENHALL £409,995



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: L&S Prestige Estates

TEL: 01902 606595

EMAIL: info@prestige-estates.com

KEY FEATURES

Extended lounge

5 double bedrooms

Immaculate

High spec dining room

Gym/hobby room



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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Spacious and modern detached property

BLOXWICH

£254,950

A spacious modern-style four-bedroomed detached property on the popular Turnberry Road development in Hollinwell Close, Bloxwich, Walsall is ideal for a family.

With viewing strongly recommended, it is for sale through Skitts at £254,950. It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a bay window, a dining/kitchen, four bedrooms, one en-suite, a bathroom, gardens and a garage.

For further information contact Skitts on 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net



Ideal family home is well presented and spacious

MOSSLEY

£107,000

<<<

Well presented and deceptively spacious, this three-bedroomed mid town house in Abbey Square, Mossley, is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £107,000.

Overlooking green space to the fore, it would make an ideal family home. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a modern family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

To the outside there is off road parking to the fore along with an alternative side access to the property and an enclosed private rear garden.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 or visit www.prestige-estatesuk.com



Spacious apartment in a retirement development

This spacious first floor two-bedroomed apartment in the popular Mattesley Court retirement development in Cresswell Crescent, Walsall, is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £75,000 with no chain at 75 per cent shared ownership.

It briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a large lounge leading to a kitchen area with an integrated

WALSALL

£75,000

electric cooker and hob, stainless steel sink and drainer, free-standing fridge/freezer, stainless steel light fitting with fitted spotlights, two double bedrooms and a wet room. The property is in the popular

location of Bloxwich and offers fantastic facilities to cater for the over 55's.

On site facilities include a residents' lounge, a restaurant, a hair salon, a shop and laundry room.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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Woodcote Road Wolverhampton



4 Bedroom modern detached house in excellent condition within a short distance of Tettenhall village, entrance hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, modern breakfast kitchen with integral appliances, conservatory, modern bathroom, driveway, car-port and garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating, call Paul Dubberley 01902 633323 to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £300,000

Fordbrook Lane Walsall



EXTENDED POPULAR LOCATION Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home In The Popular Location Of Peckall Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Side Utility, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Single Garage. The Property Also Further Benefits From Large Driveway To Fore And Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000

New Road Willenhall



UNIQUE APARTMENT IN CONVERTED DEVELOPMENT IMMACULATELY PRESENTED SHOW HOME STYLE Internal Inspection Is Essential To Appreciate The Size And Specification Of This Unique Property, Which Briefly Comprises Of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner With Island, Two Good Sized Bedrooms (Master With Ensuite Shower Room), And Family Bathroom. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Highfield Road Tipton



Select small development of 3 detached new build bungalows. Property Is Tucked Away Off A Quiet Residential Street And Comprises Of: Entrance Hall, Lounge With Kitchen Area, Two bedrooms, Luxury Bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garden and driveway, call 01902 633323 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Cedar Road Willenhall



NEW PRICE MOTIVATED SELLER TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW IN NEED OF MODERNISATION. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, The Property Comprises Of: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms And Family Bathroom.

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Cedar Road Willenhall



TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW. Benefiting From Double Glazing And Air Vent Heating, The Property Comprises Of: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Large Driveway For Numerous Vehicles, Detached Single Garage And Private Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Hawkswell Drive Willenhall



MOTIVATED SELLER STAR BUY Benefiting From Double Glazing, The Property Comprises Of: Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, 30ft Conservatory To The Side, Two Bedrooms And Family Shower Room. The Property Also Benefits From Driveway, And Large Secluded Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Tyler Road Willenhall



FANTASTIC Three/Four Bedroom Family Home In Willenhall! Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Downstairs Bedroom/Reception With Ensuite Wet Room, Three Bedrooms And Family Bathroom. Driveway, Rear Gardens And No Chain!

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Coltham Road Willenhall



Three Bedroom Mid Terrace In Popular Residential Location, The Property Comprises Of: Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Three Bedrooms And Upstairs W.C. This Family Home Further Benefits From Large Rear Garden And Front Driveway Providing Off Road Parking.

OFFERS AROUND: £101,950

Moseley Road Willenhall



Spacious semi detached residence close to all local amenities and transport links, Double Glazed and part Gas Central Heating, this property must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer. Briefly Comprising: Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Conservatory, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Off road parking and Rear Garden. EPC - F

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995

Stowheath Lane Wolverhampton



Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Home With Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Briefly Comprising Of: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Bedrooms And Enclosed Rear Garden.

VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! NO CHAIN! EPC D OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Rudge Avenue Wolverhampton



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OFFERS AROUND: £75,000

Noose Lane Willenhall



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OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Constantine Way Bilston



An Immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate. Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

ASKING PRICE OF £164,950

Mount Pleasant Bilston



THIS COULD BE YOU Great project or Family house or Multi let property...you decide if 4 bedrooms plus an office/nursery, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, downstairs wc, kitchen/diner, loads of potential, no upward chain, call 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Middleway Road Bilston



GREAT SIZE 3 Bedroom semi detached house, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, utility, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, front and rear gardens, planning permission for ground floor extension, driveway for parking, call Paul Dubberley now on 01902 494966.

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Fraser Street Bilston



THIS WON'T BE AROUND LONG Offers over £60,000 for this 2 bedroom terraced house, entrance porch, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified) no upward chain, call now 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £70,000

Jenkins Close Bilston



3 Bedroom duplex apartment over 3 floors, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, storage room, double glazing, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £69,500

Ambleside Close Bilston



HOME SWEET HOME. Lovely 2 bedroom end of terraced modern property, lounge, modern kitchen/diner, conservatory, modern bathroom, double glazing and electric heating (where specified) driveway and front garden, good size rear garden with decked patio area, call Paul Dubberley to view 01902 494966.

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000

Steven Drive Bilston



IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT Modern 1 bedroom property, modern breakfast kitchen, lounge, newly refurbished bathroom suite, double glazed, new carpets throughout, cul-de-sac location, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley now for details 01902 494966

OFFERS AROUND: £78,000

Loxdale Sidings Bilston



1 Bedroom modern flat with no upward chain, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, allocated parking, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £57,950

Castleview Road Bilston



SSTC - Properties urgently required in the area! The property which is in need of refurbishment briefly comprises, 3 bedroom semi detached house, entrance porch and hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen, shower room, double glazing, front and rear gardens, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000

Pace Crescent Bilston



3 Bedroom end terraced house with no upward chain, block paved driveway, entrance lobby, lounge/diner, kitchen, side passage, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, call now to view. Please note we hold a mining report.

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950

Fieldside Walk Bilston



VIEWING ADVISED, 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House with no upward chain, rear garage and parking, entrance hall with downstairs toilet, lounge, Kitchen diner, shower room, double glazed (where specified) and warm air heating.

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

St Chads Road Bilston



No upward chain on this 2 bedroom detached bungalow, entrance porch and hallway, 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room, central heating and double glazing (where specified) driveway providing off road parking and rear garden, call now to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Newbolt Road Bilston



Middle Terrace Residence in a popular location within walking distance to town centre. UPVC Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Guest WC, Three Bedrooms, The Fitted Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens.

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Extended Five Bed Executive Property Having Spacious Lounge, Recently Refitted Kitchen, Family Dining Room, Utility, Ground Floor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Located On A Private Driveway With Electric Gates.

£410,000

MUST VIEW



CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL
Prestigious Extended Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility, Galleried Landing, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Garage, Substantial Plot.

£349,950

Potential Building Plot. S.T.P.P.



RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Having Through Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Loft Room, DG, GCH, Double Garage, Extensive Rear Garden.

£249,995

COPPICE FARM



GAIRLOCH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., Three Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Corner Plot, Driveway And Garage.

£199,995

SCHOLARS HEATH



PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL
Modern Three Storey Four Bed Townhouse Having Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Conservatory, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/H, D/G, Garage & Driveway.

£199,950

POOL HAYES



RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL
Extended Four Bed Semi Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom And Separate Utility. Master With En-Suite, First Floor W.C., D/G, GCH, Outside W.C., Garage

£189,995



GLAISDALE GR, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/G, C/H, Private Rear Garden & Off Road Parking.

£155,000



SPRING LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge & Separate Dining Room, Extended Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway.

£155,000

VILLAGE LOCATION



ALLENS LANE, PELSALL
Immaculate Two Bed Mid Terrace Having Through Lounge /Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, Two Double Bedrooms, D/G, C/H, Enclosed Rear Garden, Village Location.

£145,000



OAK AVENUE, BENTLEY
Three Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Dining Room, Ground Floor W.C., Utility, Modern Refitted Shower Room And Off Road Parking

£124,995



CHAPEL STREET, BILSTON
Three Bed Mid Town House Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Gas C/H, D/G, Off Road Parking And Private Rear Garden.

£107,500



HAWKSWELL DR, WILLENHALL
One Bedroom End Town House Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom And Bedroom, Ample Off Road Parking To The Side Leading To A Private Rear Garden With Garage.

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£132,500

QUEENS LEA



SHEPHERDS DR, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway & Private Rear Garden.

£119,995

WILLENHALL



ROSEHILL, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Mid Terrace Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Ground Floor Bathroom, UPVC D/G, Gas C/H Rear Garden. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

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ROEBUCK GLADE, WILLENHALL
One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat, Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, D/Glazing, G/C Heating, Private Rear Garden And Benefits From A Separate Garage.

£64,995

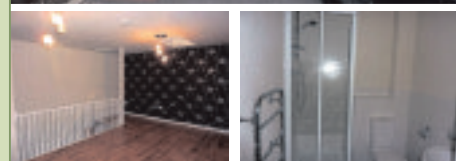
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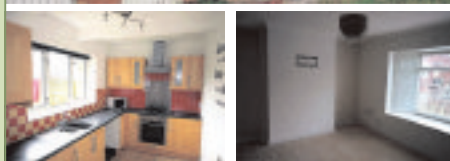
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Windrush Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Coach House Apartment
- Private Entrance & Stairway
- Large Lounge
- Separate Kitchen
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking Space
- Garage
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £525



Foster Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £500



Waterfront Way, Walsall

- AVAILABLE 31.08.2016
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge
- Fitted Bathroom with Shower Also
- Close to all amenities & near canal
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

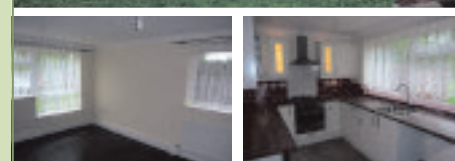
Monthly Rental Of £425



Slaney Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom Maisonette
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location
- Within 1 Mile of J9 - M6
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £400



Kempthorne Gardens, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Large Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Modern Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Ample Storage
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- Communal Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475

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 2015...**



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 YOU WIN EVERY YEAR**



High Street, Walsall

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- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower

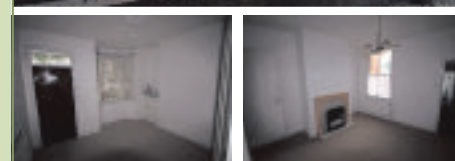
Monthly Rental Of £395



Broad Lane, Walsall

- First Floor One Bedroom Maisonette
- Private Entrance Hall
- Lounge with Gas Fire
- Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- Shared Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £325



Blakenall Lane, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- Sorry No DHSS
- No Pets or Smokers
- Close to Blakenall High Street

Monthly Rental Of £475



Moxhull Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Separate Entrance
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325



West Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced Property
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Open Plan Staircase
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Storage Area leading to Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £450

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Auction

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August 2016
at 6.00pm Precisely

**Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA**

LOT 1

**Queslett Road
Great Barr**

Mon 1st Aug 11:45am




Mid terraced property situated in a popular residential area with the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing ideal for an investor. Work required but good opportunity for buy to let or resale. Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.3m x 3.5m, Dining Room 2.9m x 2.8m, Kitchen 2.9m x 2.5m max First Floor Bedroom One 3.66m x 3.2m, Bedroom Two 3.4m x 3.2m, Bedroom Three 2.7m x 2.3m, Wet Room and Separate W.C. Outside Fore and Rear Gardens

●Guide Price **£79,000 PLUS**

LOT 2

**Leamore Lane
Walsall**

Fri 29th July 12:30pm



In need of modernisation this traditionally styled semi detached property is conveniently located and would make an ideal buy for an investor. Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, 4.1m x 4m, Kitchen, 2.2m x 2.4m, Bathroom, W.C First Floor Bedroom One 5.2m x 3m max, Bedroom Two 3.4m x 2.4m, Bedroom Three 2.6m x 2.4m Outside Fore and Rear Gardens

●Guide Price **£50,000 PLUS**

LOT 3

**Victoria Avenue
Bloxwich**

Fri 29th July 12pm




In need of full modernisation and improvement this property requires cash offers and represents a challenge. Conveniently located close to Bloxwich town centre and comprises: Ground Floor Lounge 5m x 4m, Kitchen 5m x 2.18m Range of out buildings/ lean to covering a large area of sum 5m x 6m First Floor Bed One 3m x 3.2m, Bedroom Two 3.4m x 2.4m, Bedroom Three 2.6m x 2.4m Outside Fore and rear gardens

●Guide Price **£32,000 PLUS**

LOT 4

**Mulberry Road
Bloxwich**

Fri 29th July 11:30am



This three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area a short walk from Bloxwich train station. Ground Floor Front door leads to Lounge (4.2m x 4m), Kitchen with access to garden (3.4m x 2.6m), Reception Room (3.3m x 2.6m), First Floor Bedroom One with window to front (3.3m x 3.2m), Bedroom Two (3.4m x 2.6m), Bedroom Three (2.6m x 2.4m), Bathroom (1.9m x 1.5m) Outside Fore and Rear Gardens

●Guide Price **£79,000 PLUS**

LOT 5

**Leigh Road
Walsall**

Mon 1st Aug 11am



This three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation. The property is located in a popular residential area and with all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to lounge with bay window to front (3.5m x 3.4m), Rear reception room (4.5m x 3.5m), Kitchen (3.6m x 2.8m), Garage (12m x 3.4m) First Floor Bedroom one with bay window to front (4.3m x 3.5m), Bedroom two (3.6m x 3.5m), Bedroom three (2.7m x 2.4m), Bathroom (2.2m x 1.8m)

●Guide Price **£139,000 PLUS**

LOT 6

**Fairfax Road
Birmingham**

By appointment through auctioneers



This one bedroom semi detached bungalow is situated in a popular residential area and has been well maintained. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Lounge with bay window (5m into bay x 3.5m), Kitchen (3.4m x 3.3m), Bedroom (3.4m x 3.1m), Shower Room (2.4m x 2.1m)

●Guide Price **£70,000 PLUS**

LOT 7

**Spinney Close
Pelsall**

Mon 1st Aug 10am



This three bedroom detached property is in need of modernisation. It is situated in a popular residential area a short walk from a primary school and Pelsall Common. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front door leads to kitchen with window to front (3.9m x 2.4m), Dining Room (5.4m x 3.5m), Lounge with sliding doors which provide access to the rear garden and W.C which provides access to a double garage. First Floor Bedroom One with window to front (4.5m x 2.8m), Bedroom two with window to rear (4.2m x 2.8m), Bedroom Three with window to rear (4m x 3.2m), Shower Room (4m x 3.2m) Outside Fore Garden with Driveway and Rear Garden

●Guide Price **£145,000 PLUS**

LOT 8

**School Lane
Pelsall**

Fri 29th July 11am



Conveniently located in a popular spot close to Pelsall village, purchasers are advised to check the Coal Mining Report. Ideal buy to let opportunity the property comprises Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 3.7m x 3.6m, Dining Room, 3.7m max x 3.6m, Kitchen, 2.6m x 1.8m, Lean to 2.2m x 2.1m, W.C First Floor Bedroom One 3.7m x 2.8m, Bedroom Two, 3.3m x 2.8m, Bedroom Three 2.8m x 2m Outside Fore garden, shared driveway. Rear gardens

●Guide Price **£72,000 PLUS**

LOT 9

**Whitehorse Road
Brownhills**

Fri 29th July 10:30am




A semi detached property situated just off the A5 in a popular location ideal for investor. With double glazing the property does require some improvements. Set back behind driveway the property comprises Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.2m x 4.2m, Kitchen, 3.5m x 2.88m, Bathroom with access to W.C. Brick outbuilding First Floor Bedroom One 5.2m x 3.19m, Bedroom Two 4m x 2.5m, Bedroom Three 2.6m x 2.9m Outside Fore and Rear Gardens

●Guide Price **£73,000 PLUS**

LOT 10

**Church Road
Smethwick**

Fri 29th July 3pm



A traditionally styled mid terraced property with gas heating and double glazing situated in a popular residential area making an ideal investment opportunity. The property comprises Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room 3.3 x 3.5, Lobby with access to Cellar Lounge, 4 x 3.5 Fitted Kitchen with Worcester gas combination boiler, rear Lobby to Bathroom with matching white suite First Floor Bedroom One (front), 4.75m x 3.5m, Bedroom Two (rear) 3.8m x 3.6m, Bedroom Three (rear) 3.6m x 2.1m Outside Property is set back behind small foregarden and has a shared entry to. Rear yard and garden

●Guide Price **£70,000 PLUS**

LOT 11

**Westminster Road
Rushall**

Mon 1st Aug 10:30am



An extremely well maintained and attractively appointed detached bungalow offering spacious living accommodation and demanding internal inspection. Having gas central heating and Upvc double glazing the accommodation briefly includes: Accommodation Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge 4.21m x 3.51m, excellent Dining Kitchen, Bedroom One 3.96m x 3.32m, Bedroom Two 3.65m x 3.35m, Bedroom Three 3.36m x 3.31m, Bathroom 2.1m x 2.05m with Separate Shower Cubicle, Outside Private Rear Garden, Large Garage and wide Frontage with Pervious Parking.

●Guide Price **£150,000 PLUS**

LOT 13

**Allen Close
Great Barr**

Sat 30th July midday



Situated for utmost convenience this spacious first floor maisonette is in need of some modernisation and enhancement whilst being well placed for local shops and amenities at Hamstead village. Also having easy access to public transport with both bus and rail links into Birmingham city centre available close by. Boasting a spacious front living room the property offers a generous fitted kitchen (with rear balcony) and white bathroom complemented further by a good size bedroom. Benefitting from central heating and double glazing this property represents an outstanding opportunity for first time buyers or investors to purchase at an affordable price range within such a popular residential location.

●Guide Price **£45,000 - £50,000**

LOT 15

**Broad Meadow
Walsall**

Mon 1st Aug 12:30pm



This two bedroom semi detached dorma bungalow is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area and with all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Front porch leads to Lounge (4.5m x 3.1m), Reception Room (3.3m x 2.7m), Kitchen (3.6m x 2.7m), First Floor Bedroom one with window to front (4.4m x 3m), Bedroom two (3.6m x 3.1m) Outside At the rear of the property there is a garden

●Guide Price **£95,000 PLUS**

LOT 17

**Bickley Road
Rushall**

Tue 2nd Aug 9.30 am



Situated in a popular residential area, this traditionally styled semi detached property is mainly double glazed and benefits from gas fired central heating. In need of some improvement, the property offers well planned spacious extended living accommodation and comprises:- Ground Floor Reception Hall, L-shaped Lounge/Dining Room with feature fireplace and double glazed patio doors to rear garden. Extended Kitchen with fitted oven and hob, fridge, door leads to side entry off which is a w.c. and Outhouse and Lean to First Floor Landing, Bedroom On (front), Bedroom Two (rear), Bedroom Three (rear) with Glowworm gas central heating boiler, Shower Room with tiled cubicle, vanity unit and low level w.c.

●Guide Price **£80,000 PLUS**

LOT 18

**Hednesford Road
Brownhills**

Fri 29th July 10am



A two bedroom property situated in a convenient location close to all amenities including Brownhills centre along with M6 Toll and local schools. Offering mostly UPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating the property includes Ground Floor Lounge/Dining Room 8.48m x 3.65m, Lobby Area Guest W.C., Inner Hallway, Dining Kitchen 1.1m x 3.84m & 1.6m with range of wall and base units, gas hob, extractor and electric oven, Large Sitting Room 3.86m x 3.91m, First Floor Bedroom One 3.66m x 3.66m, Bedroom Two 3.76m x 2.51m, Re-fitted and part tiled Bathroom with matching white suite

●Guide Price **£95,000 PLUS**

LOT 19

**Prince Street
Walsall Wood**

By appointment through Auctioneers



Conveniently located close to the centre of Walsall Wood in a desirable residential area, this semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing. Set on a corner plot. Leasehold: 99 years from 1970. Ground Rent £30.00 Per Annum

●Guide Price **£80,000 PLUS**

LOT 20

**Wenlock Road
Aston**

Tue 2nd Aug 12:15pm



In need of modernisation this traditionally styled end terraced property is located in a popular owner occupier or buy to let area and offers tremendous scope for improvement. Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall with stairs off, Lounge 4m x 3.4m, Dining Room 4.2m x 3.77m, Kitchen, 2m x 3.4m, Lobby, Bathroom First Floor Bedroom One (front), 4.8m x 3.4m, Bedroom Two (rear) 3.7m x 3.8m, Bedroom Three (rear) 3.3m x 2.2m Outside Fore and Rear Gardens

●Guide Price **£75,000 PLUS**

LOT 21

**Manor Drive
Shareshill**

Tue 2nd Aug 3pm



Occupying a delightful location with open aspect to front in the rural Staffordshire village of Shareshill, this semi detached property has gas central heating and some double glazing but it is in need of further modernisation and improvement. Ideally suited to the needs of a first time buyer of investor, the property comprises:- Ground Floor Enclosed porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen with Worcester gas fired central heating boiler, Utility Room with access to Garage, outside and W.C. First Floor Landing, Bedroom One (rear), Bedroom Two (front), Bedroom Three (front, Bedroom Three with matching suite.

●Guide Price **£125,000 PLUS**

LOT 22

**Chalcot Grove
Birmingham**

Sat 30th July 11.00 am



Situated in a desirable residential cul-de-sac within Handsworth Wood this spacious detached property is in need of total modernisation and Ripe for Renovation. Entered through a porch and reception hallway while boasting two inter-connecting reception rooms with a fitted leading out to an enclosed side passageway, so as to complete the ground floor. The upstairs consisting of three well proportioned bedrooms accompanied by a generous size bathroom. Outside the property maintains a good size rear garden, enjoying a pleasant open outlook with front off-road parking/driveway, side garage and fore garden to complement.

●Guide Price **£115,000 PLUS**

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Mazda adds autumn colour with special edition Mazda2 Red

By James Parker

It's time to see red this September, as Mazda's stylish and sophisticated supermini range is enhanced with the launch of the Mazda2 Red Edition.

With high levels of standard specification, eye-catching styling enhancements and a striking cabin, the Red Edition's stand-out appearance complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions.

Offered with a choice of free-of-charge Snowflake White Pearllescent or Black Mica paint, the Red Edition's youthful design cues include Soul Red accents on the wing mirror covers, rear spoiler and rear underskirt, while the bespoke look can be further heightened with optional £300 Dark Gunmetal 15" alloy wheels.

Inside, the red den theme continues with red cloth seat trim, red knee pad inserts and red door trim inserts, while a red and white décor panel on the dash adds a large sweep of colour across the dash.

In dealerships from September 1 and limited to just 400 cars, the Red

The Red edition's stand-out looks complements the Mazda2's KODO: Soul of Motion design and sporty proportions

..... Edition's small volumes make it an exclusive supermini choice that stands out from the crowd.

However, based on the 90ps SE-L Nav, the Red Edition shares the same core values of driving fun, sharp looks, quality, safety and affordability found across the entire Mazda2 range.

Featuring the signature wing front grille and predatory headlamp styling which instantly identify it as a Mazda, the Mazda2 supermini features advanced chassis architecture, while its dynamic, muscular, cab-rearward proportions incorporate a long wheelbase with small overhangs to maximise interior space.

On-board, front shoulder and rear knee room is complemented by ex-

cellent seat comfort, while coherent instrumentation and switchgear is matched to class-leading ergonomics.

The 7-inch touch-screen display combines with Mazda's rotary Multimedia Commander to create an enhanced human-machine interface (HMI) offering extremely safe, intuitive interactivity and infotainment control.

Powered by the efficient 90ps SKYACTIV-G petrol engine, the Red Edition offers customers the ideal balance of lively, agile performance and highly-competitive fuel economy, plus with CO2 emissions of just 105g/km low-running costs are a given.

Stylish

"Thanks to its combination of fun-to-drive handling, stylish looks and generous equipment, the Mazda2 is already winning over UK supermini buyers and our latest special edition model offers stand-out looks and a bold cabin for those customers who want to make a statement with their car," said Peter Allibon, sales director of Mazda Motors UK.

"With free-of-charge metallic paint and its striking styling enhancements, the Mazda2 Red Edition is a colourful addition to the Mazda2 range, that I'm sure will be popular with younger buyers."



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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range pictured above in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 36.7 (7.7) to 50.4 (5.6); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) to 72.4 (3.9); Combined 45.6 (6.2) to 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range pictured above are 142 to 108g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Upgraded Cherokee a pleasure to take out

By John Griffiths

In a world where the sports utility vehicle seems to be taking over the roads, there's one which will always stand out from the crowd.

You don't have to be a petrolhead to recognise a Jeep from its unique slotted grille, or know what it stands for. That's a fitting tribute, since Jeep invented the modern SUV concept back in the 1940s and has been developing it ever since.

That's illustrated by the latest Cherokee model which has been further developed since its launch in 2014: perhaps most notably by the introduction of a new, more powerful 2.2 litre diesel engine mated to a highly flexible nine-speed automatic gearbox.

When we talk performance we not confining ourselves to the limited parameter of 0 to 62mph sprint time (although 8.5 seconds for the 197bhp test car is certainly no slouch). More power, torque and ratios mean progress is smoother, quieter, more relaxed and comfort is what this Jeep is about.

The £37,245 test car, in Limited specification, is packed with driver aids and safety technology as well as boasting a leather-clad interior. As well as dual zone climate control it has heated and ventilated seats – the latter very welcome with leather seats on a hot day; it all adds to that luxurious ambience.

Supple

The nine-speed auto means an ultra low first gear (ideal if you venture off road) and a higher top, with motorway speeds achieved at barely 1,600rpm which is good news for refinement and economy. Its official (laboratory tested) average fuel consumption is 49.6mpg with a corresponding 150g/km of CO2 emissions: in my real world test I averaged 41mpg, which is competitive for a car of this size with all wheel drive.

In fact progress in the Cherokee is commendably quiet, a feature complemented by its relatively soft and supple ride.

The Jeep seems to be designed for comfort, rather than the sort of sporty dynamics chosen by some of its continental rivals.

That said, it was a pleasure to drive across Welsh mountain roads in spite of its size and weight – and even more so to arrive after three hours behind the wheel without signs of stiffening in old bones.

Cherokee prices start from £26,355 for the entry-level, 2.0 litre manual, up to £40,150 for the specially equipped new flagship, the 75th Anniversary edition. Most Cherokees use the 2.2 diesel, but there is a 3.2 litre V6 manual option.

The Cherokee is really one of a kind so it's hard to pin down a true rival although perhaps the nearest would be the new VW Tiguan or Land Rover's Discovery Sport but you need to look closely at equipment levels and prices.

Power

It's a step up from the compact SUV sector, Jeep has that covered with its successful Renegade and for those who want a bigger vehicle and more power there's the Grand Cherokee.

The Cherokee's four wheel drive system can be set up for normal, mud or snow modes by a rotary dial on the centre console.

For the most part, leaving it in auto mode is the best plan, although sport does sharpen up throttle and gear responses.

There are no flappy paddles for manual gearchanges, but I found the sequential back-forward movement of the shift lever equally convenient when, for example, choosing a lower gear for more engine braking on steep descents.

The transmission is very responsive so a good, old-fashioned kick down iproduces plenty of mid-range surge for a quick overtake.

Apart from the four wheel drive, there is a range of electronics aiding safety and stability, including a roll mitigation system included in the electronic stability programme.

Automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control, a rear parking camera, dual zone climate control and a comprehensive trip computer displayed in the instrument panel are all part of the package.

The colour screen in the centre console gives driver or front passenger control of the satnav, nine-speaker stereo/radio, Bluetooth and connectivity systems.

Optional extras fitted to the test car included a panoramic sunroof and electronic aids including adaptive cruise control and lane departure warnings.

The interior, clad in black Moroccan leather, has room for five in comfort and a big big – almost 600 litres which more than doubles if you fold the rear seats down.

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Premium status and it's cleaner and leaner

By John Griffiths

Audi seems adept in its marketing strategy by filling niches: ensuring that even among its mainstream models there are no gaps left for its competitors to fill.

So you may not be surprised that from now its dealers will be able to supply any one of 127 different versions of its new A3, with four bodystyles, six engines and a range of trim levels at prices from under £21,000 to £36,480.

Audi was well established itself as a premium car maker when it launched the first A3 in 1996. It was, perhaps, a successful gamble: buyers DID want the option of a smaller car with premium credentials: so much so it became the company's biggest seller – 1.8million last year.

Now many of the features of bigger, more expensive cars in the Audi range have filtered down to the new A3, raising its game still further. You can, for example, have the same high-tech 'virtual cockpit' as the flagship R8 supercar, and the latest infotainment system with facilities for wireless phone connection and charging, fully integrating the phone with the car's central screen.

There's also a glimpse of the future and the autonomous car – the option of traffic jam assist whereby the car can drive, stop and steer itself in traffic at speeds of up to 38mph.

It uses the now familiar adaptive cruise control system – using radar to maintain your gap behind the car in front – and a camera to detect white lane lines on either side and keep you on the straight and narrow. The idea is to relieve the strain of the driver in that all-too-familiar traffic crawl – but as a safety measure it only operates if you keep your hands on the wheel.

A major player in the new range could be the entry level version at £20,915 powered by the group's new TFSI turbo-charged, three cylinder, one litre petrol engine. I wasn't able to drive it in the A3, but only a couple of weeks ago tested it in VW's Golf and it is something of a revelation: it's hard to believe it's such a small capacity unit because it turns out 115bhp and the torque of a small diesel.

It pulls strongly from low revs, cruises effortlessly and tackles the 0 to 62mph sprint in under ten seconds with a fuel average of up to 60mpg and a low 107g/km CO2 rating.

The other new engine option is a 2.0 litre TFSI, producing 190PS (0 to 62mph in 6.8 seconds and 49.6mpg), while flagship S3 models get the option of the same engine uprated to a whopping 310PS. Vital statistics of 0 to 62mph in 4.5 seconds with official fuel figures of 44.1mpg put it firmly in competition with the hottest of hot hatchbacks.

Pick

Having driven several new A3s back to back, for me the pick of the bunch was the S-Line (the most popular trim level in the previous line-up) powered by the third petrol engine, the 1.4 TFSI. This £24,530 model – plus options such as the £1,395 advanced technology pack, £425 rear parking sensors and £125 for the auto-dimming rear view mirror – is a quick car, hitting 62mph in 8.1 seconds.

With its 150PS of power and extra torque from the turbo, it's very responsive and cruises effortlessly, like a car with significantly greater cubic capacity. The lighter weight of a small petrol engine, combined with the S-Line's sports suspension, makes this model feel particularly light and agile along twisty country roads. The big sports seats and the leather clad, flat-bottom sports steering wheel with multi-function buttons, dual zone air conditioning and a superbly laid out cockpit make it a nice place to be.

It feels like a GT – but it is capable of an official average of 60mpg (by coincidence its average over the test route exactly matched that of the 2.0 diesel A3). I confess the petrol model was set into efficiency mode – there other modes such as sport which significantly sharpens its responses, comfort or auto – but the result was nonetheless impressive.

That's partly because of the now proven benefits of a small capacity engine combined with turbocharging, plus it has cylinder on demand technology. It closes the valves and shuts down one of its four cylinders under light load, while cruising or going down hill.

More familiar to A3 drivers would be the 1.6 litre diesel, with 110PS of power and 250Nm of torque. It is nippy, with a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 10.5 seconds, and capable of up to 70mpg in official tests. CO2 emissions are a low 108g/km.

It takes a keen eye to spot the differences between the new A3 and its predecessor. The essential changes are new headlights, plus a wider grille and apron to give the car a rather more aggressive face.

But there are extensive changes under the skin, from new technology to new, more efficient engines and – something else you can't see – the new models are up to 90kg lighter than their predecessors, further improving fuel economy and driving dynamics.

Improvements to the new A3 underline its claims to premium status, while also offering leaner, cleaner motoring and a first rate experience to the driving enthusiast.

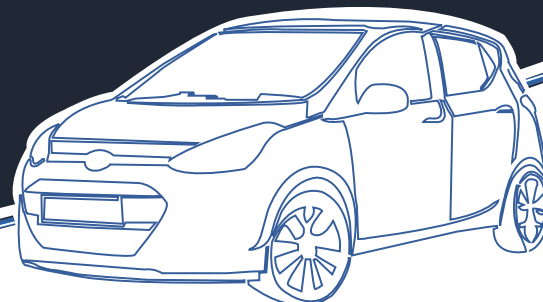


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equestrian corner
guns & dogs

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BLOXWICH THREE bed house with garage. Walsall rooms to let. 07825 381676.
DARLSTON 3 BED house, DG, CH, front and back garden, no DSS. 07448 505750.
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 1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
 2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
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FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC, 2002 (New Shape), MoT November, 73,000 miles, 5-dr, red. Excellent condition. £875. 07771 428793.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA 04, full MoT, well maintained, £400. 07826 289431.

VW GOLF 2.0 GTI 6dr, white, K Reg, MoT Oct 2016, 101,000 miles, good condition £1,000 ono. 07816 631823.

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FIAT SCUDA van, side opening door, MoT, good work horse, £575 ono. 07794 450416.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

WALSALL COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE
Premises: 85 Bridge Street, Walsall WS1 1JQ

Notice is hereby given that Smartclubz Limited has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Authority for a premises licence under s.17 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Licence Applications
Regulated Entertainment - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday 12:00 - 02:00
Tuesday & Thursday 19:00 - 02:00
Friday & Saturday 12:00 - 03:00
Sale of Alcohol - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday 12:00 - 02:00
Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 - 03:00
Opening hours - Sunday to Thursday 12:00 - 02:00
Friday & Saturday 12:00 - 03:00

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall WS1 1JQ. Representations must be received no later than: 16 August 2016.

The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.
It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000).

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
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Classified Ads

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/0988 New River Property Unit Trust No. 4 FOR: OUTLINE FOR ERECTION OF 12 APARTMENTS (6 x 1 BED AND 6 x 2 BED) - ACCESS ONLY TO BE CONSIDERED. AT: LAND TO THE REAR OF UNITED KINGDOM INN, BLOXWICH ROAD, WILLENHALL, WV12 5PG

16/0985 Parkhall Estates FOR: APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF 12 APARTMENTS AND CREATION OF ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING ON LAND AT GILLITY SHOPPING CENTRE, LISKEARD ROAD AND GARAGES AT TREYAMON ROAD, WALSALL (RE-SUBMISSION OF 15/02/17). AT: CAR PARK AT GILLITY SHOPPING CENTRE, LISKEARD ROAD AND GARAGES AT TREYAMON ROAD, WALSALL

16/0967 Mrs Ling Dadsdell FOR: INSTALLATION OF REFLECTIVE ADVERTISING COLLAR SURROUND ATM. AT: WALSALL POST OFFICE, DARWALL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1AA

16/0912 Ling Dadsdell FOR: INSTALLATION OF BANK OF IRELAND ATM WITH REFLECTIVE ADVERTISING COLLAR SURROUND. AT: WALSALL POST OFFICE, DARWALL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1AA

16/0105 Mr Vinod Jain FOR: REMOVE REDUNDANT WIRING AND FITTINGS REMOVE SATELLITE DISH AND SECURITY CAMERA AT: UNIVERSAL CARPETS, 25, BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1PN

WALSALL COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE
Premises: 230 Wednesday Road, Peck, Walsall WS2 9QN

Notice is hereby given that Mr Mohammed Naem has applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Act 2003.

Licence Applications
Late Night Refreshments - Monday to Sunday 23:00 - 03:00

Opening hours - Monday to Sunday 11:00 - 03:00

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Walsall WS1 1JQ. Representations must be received no later than: 16 August 2016.

The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000).

ADA MARY FREEMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 33 Green Lane Pellist Walsall WS3 4PA, who died on 10/05/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Walsall WS1 1TJ

T478311

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

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LOVELY Oriental lady in Camaraderie with seniors older man



As a coach at West Bromwich Albion with Gary Strodder in 1990



Allardice as a Bolton Wanderers player in 1980



Allardice, back centre, in the school team for Sycamore Green, Dudley



Sam Allardice arrives for a friendly while manager of Sunderland

Black Country's Sam is now the England man

HE'S the Black Country boy who grew up supporting Wolves and went on to enjoy a coaching role at Albion.

Now Dudley-born Sam Allardice has landed his dream job as England manager.

It's a job he has craved ever since being overlooked in 2006 when the FA instead opted for Steve McClaren.

The 61-year-old was appointed by a three-man FA panel of chief executive Martin Glenn, vice-chairman David Gill and technical director Dan Ashworth last week. He replaces Roy Hodgson, himself a former Albion boss, who resigned after England's 2-1 Euro 2016 defeat to Iceland.

Former FA chairman Greg Dyke said: "Clearly the three-man group are convinced he's the right man and I go along with that."

"We appointed a three-man committee to go out and look at all the candidates, come back with a recommendation who they thought was the best man. They've taken that decision and obviously we'll agree with them."

Educated

Allardice is known to be hugely proud of his West Midlands roots – and often comes back to visit family. But the no-nonsense defender felt he had to move away in order to pursue a career in professional football.

Big Sam grew up on Wren's Nest estate and was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Wren's Nest School.

But he left the area aged just 15 when he was approached by Bolton.

He played a handful of games for Dudley Town's youth team during the 1969/70 season. His brother, Bobby, remains the club's oldest-ever player.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin said: "It's

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"It's fantastic to see someone from our own town, who played for our club, going all the way to being England manager."

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Allardice's playing career took him to Bolton, Huddersfield, Sunderland, Coventry, Millwall and Preston. But no matter what part of the country he was in, he always expressed his pride at being from Dudley.

And, despite his boyhood leaning towards Wolves, it was Albion who gave Allardice his first taste of coaching when he was appointed to Brian Talbot's coaching staff at The Hawthorns in 1989.

Although his stay back in the West Midlands ended when he and Talbot were sacked, he still believes his first backroom job was a valuable part of his managerial education.

"It was a difficult time for the club, for Brian Talbot and certainly for me," said Allardice. "I was reserves manager but then in the second year Brian wanted me to work with him and the first team."

"But it was always going to be difficult because he was under pressure from the start and it only lasted until January."

"I enjoyed working with the players in the reserves

and we won the Birmingham League. It was a good experience."

The next step saw him head to Limerick where he guided the League of Ireland team to promotion, before managing Blackpool, who sacked him when he failed to guide them to Division One.

In January, 1997, he became manager of Division Two basement club Notts County. And although he couldn't save them from relegation, they won promotion at the first attempt by finishing top of Division Three the next year – winning the title by 19 points and becoming the first post-war side to win promotion by mid-March.

In 1999 he returned to Bolton, for whom he had played 198 times, and in 2001 they beat Preston 3-0 in the play-off final to reach the Premiership. He then stabilised them in the top flight to help form his reputation as a survival specialist.

But his time at the Reebok Stadium wasn't just about keeping Bolton in the league. The Trotters, with the likes of Youri Djorkaeff and Jay-Jay Okocha, qualified for the UEFA Cup and reached the Round of 32 in the 2005/06 campaign.

Spells

Allardice was offered the Manchester City job shortly after, but the offer was withdrawn after Thaksin Shinawatra's purchase of the club was accepted.

Since then he has had spells in charge of Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham. And last season he defied the odds to keep Sunderland in the Premier League.

Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who led England to three successive major tournament quarter-finals, has backed Allardice to succeed. He said: "If you take a team from the lower part of the table you have to adapt to what you want to do."

"Many times Sam has had a team struggling for survival and he has done the job."



Allardice, far left, a coach at Albion under Brian Talbot, with the 1990/91 squad line-up



No-nonsense defending as Allardice gets stuck in for Coventry in 1984



Team loses ground after Walsall win

WOLVERHAMPTON have fallen 57 points behind leaders Berkswell in the Premier Division of the Birmingham Cricket League after losing to Walsall by seven wickets.

Staffordshire wicketkeeper James Middleton struck an unbeaten 91 as Walsall chased down Wolverhampton's total of 195 with ease.

Walsall captain David Powles helped Middleton get his side over the line at Danescourt with 41 not out after opening batsman Mike Hingley knocked up a total of 46.

Earlier, Paul Byrne had take 4-50 with Wasim Jaffer (77) top scoring for Wolverhampton.

Kidderminster are just three points behind Wolverhampton after all-rounder Michael Hill smashed 116 from only 55 balls in a massive 187-run victory over West Bromwich Dartmouth.

Hill's innings included 13 fours and seven sixes, and Nathan Round (71), Jonathan Wright (66) and Neil Pinner (56) all made half-centuries as Kidderminster ended on 347-6.

The bowlers then completed the job, as Dartmouth were bowled out for 160. Chris Russell was the pick of the bunch with 5-41.

In Division One, Smethwick stayed second thanks to centuries from Mo Sheikh (100) and Amitoze Singh (114). They set Old Hill 281 to win but even though the hosts couldn't chase it down, they lost just six wickets to deny Smethwick the win.

Himley nearly chased down Barnards Green's total of 279-8 but finished on 270-7 in reply.

Ben Smith (74), Tom Kohler-Cadmore (63) and Dan Durman (44no) were the pick of Himley's batsmen while Chris Boroughs and Jamie Turner each took three wickets.

Senior Open win 'a dream'

WALSALL-BORN golfer Paul Broadhurst says his Senior Open title win at Carnoustie is 'beyond his wildest dreams'. The 50-year-old overcame a four-shot deficit on the final day with a round of 68 to snatch the title from Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez.

He is the first player to win the Senior Open on debut since Fred Couples in 2012 and the first English winner on the European Senior Tour this year.

"It's incredible to be honest. I never dreamed this would ever happen," the former Ryder Cup player said. "It is seriously beyond my wildest dreams. It hasn't really sunk in yet."

Broadhurst, who now lives in Atherstone, Warwickshire, last played on the main European Tour in 2012. He contemplated giving up golf then but continued to play PGA Midlands tournaments.

Now he has been rewarded for his efforts with £212,000 in prize money.

"I had a decision to make; either stop playing and perhaps go into teaching or find a job," he said. "I was only 45-46. But I decided I wanted to carry on playing."

Broadway make a splash to reach final

BROADWAY Swimming Club ended their season on a high as the junior team made the final of the Nuneaton and District League.

Swimmers winning for the team in the final gala were: Elodie Rollins, who won the 10yr 50m front crawl and 25m butterfly; Robyn Dolan won the 9yr 25m breaststroke and front crawl; Chloe Mallon won the 25m butterfly and Georgia Archer the 25m backstroke.

The Boys races began in fine style with Blake Webb winning the 9yr and 10 yr races 25m butterfly and 50m front crawl. Adam Guild won 9yr 25m breaststroke and also in the 9yr age group,

SWIMMING

Harrison Botterill won the 25m backstroke. In the 10yr age group Callum Bird won the 50m breaststroke, Jenson Proctor won the 11yr 50m backstroke, with George Pattinson and Matthias Henry and Millie Harmon, all with second places.

The club is now looking forward to competing in the finals to be held on September 10. The senior and junior teams joined forces on July 16 and 17, to compete in the Wolverhampton Open Meet. Blake Webb won four Gold medals, in the 50m butterfly, 50m breaststroke, 100m indi-

vidual medley and 200m freestyle, whilst picking up two silver medals for 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke. As a result he won Top Boy in the nine year age category.

Jenson Proctor won Silver Medals in the 10 year, 200 m Backstroke and a bronze medal went to Adin Kamingira in the 14 yr 100m breaststroke. Megan Butler 14yr swam eight races and achieved six personal best times, whilst Harriet Shepherd 14, competed in six events and achieving a number of Personal Best times, whilst Alice Shepherd swam two events and achieved two personal best times.

Title hopes crushed by one punch

ONE game-changing right hand saw the English super lightweight title go to Ricky Hatton's camp and not to Bloxwich's Luke Paddock.

Boxing legend Hatton co-promoted the 'Danger Zone' show, in conjunction with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing, and coached the victor.

The fight still hung in the balance by the time of the ninth-round finish where Anthony Upton prevailed by TKO.

Upton's stiff straight shot bowled Paddock over as he tried to stand his ground, leaving him answering referee John Latham's count.

He made it up in time but was waved off on his feet, with Upton's corner and delirious supporters spilling into the ring to celebrate.

Paddock appeared to be on top after bossing most of the second half of the contest, having settled into proceedings.

Former two-weight world champion Hatton revealed he ordered his fighter to throw the killer shot that made all of the difference.

"The Hitman" hailed Upton's resolve after losing on points to Joe Hughes for the same honours in December - which Paddock can take heart from.

Hatton said: "Anthony was throwing his punches around the houses, so he got a bit of a telling off when he got to the corner."

"I told him to throw the right hand straight and, the first time he did, it landed bang on the target. I'm made up for him."

"He's moved on and improved, defeats can make or break you and it's made Anthony. We all lose, but you keep at it and learn. I'm sure Luke will come back from this."

Wendesbury's Sam Evans is another Hatton protégé who featured, picking up a six-round points landslide over Stourbridge-based Kevin McCauley.

Keates signs up to play for the Pics

RUSHALL OLYMPIC have announced the signing of former Walsall midfielder Dean Keates, a favourite of the Saddlers' faithful over his two spells at the club, who will play for the Pics in the Evo-Stik Premier this season.

The 38-year-old has made more than 400 appearances in the Football League, starting out at the Saddlers, where he won promotions to Division One in the 1998/99 and 2000/01 seasons. He returned to Walsall for the 2006/07 term, in which he scored 13 goals. Keates also coaches the Wrexham Glyndwr Academy side, who Rushall will face in a friendly at Dales Lane tonight (Thursday).

★★★

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WHITNEY SEES THE POSITIVES

BOSS Jon Whitney believes there were some valuable lessons to be learned from Walsall's friendly defeat against Derby.

Goals from Darren Bent and Tom Ince saw the Championship side run out comfortable 2-0 winners at the Bank's Stadium on Saturday.

Walsall had their moments with the lively Erhun Oztuner and youngster Maziar Kouhyar testing goalkeeper Lee Grant.

But it was the Rams who dominated possession with a team packed with players who have Premier League experience.

"I was a bit frustrated with the performance - but that is just the way we are as a staff and as a group," Whitney said. "But you have to take a step back and look at the positives."

"Derby are a good unit. I said to the players, reflect - go home, look at your performance but don't over-analyse."

"The two goals we conceded, I could see our shape wasn't quite right. Against Birmingham it was excellent but against Derby we looked a little bit disjointed."

"In the first half our distances were not quite right. If we are going to be a really high, physical pressing team - we have to get those distances right. We can see where we could have done better to stop them having so much play."

One of big pluses for Whitney was the performance of second-year scholar Callum Cockrell-Mollett, who was handed his first Walsall start.

"Callum got 90 minutes at left-back because I wanted to see what he was like starting a game," Whitney added. "I was really pleased with him. I thought he was a bit nervous the first 20 minutes but it was a true test for him."

Whitney, meanwhile, says progress is being made as he looks to bring in two new faces ahead of the season opener against Wimbledon.

The Saddlers kick off the 2016/17 League One campaign in less than a fortnight with Whitney still keen to add new signings to his squad.

One is expected to be a striker to help ease the goalscoring burden on recent recruit Simeon Jackson and youngster Amadou Bakayoko.

Players in a smashing move



Steve Daniel, Neil Porley, Glenn Curley and John Buckley, moving from Oak Park Leisure Centre

BADMINTON stalwarts are practising their own brand of shuttle diplomacy as they prepare to move base. Glenn Curley and his work colleagues from Four Seasons Roofing Ltd in Aldridge started playing at Oak Park Leisure Centre back in the early 1980s.

Their regular Thursday evening sessions at the Walsall Wood venue have continued down three decades at the venue - but now they're on the move.

Oak Park is to close and Glenn and his colleagues, including John Buckley, Steve Daniel, Neil Porley, Rob Jennings, Dave Meek and Bill Criddle are going a few metres over the road to a new £26 million facility has everything

the sporty-minded could wish for - a superb swimming pool, six court sports hall, two glass-backed squash courts and a floodlit 3G artificial turf pitch.

But Glenn and his buddies still think fondly of their old base. "For us it's a mix of excitement and sadness," said the 52-year-old, who works in roofing and as a photographer.

While the gang never became an affiliated badminton club, their matches have always been competitive.

"It was all social," added Curley, who lives in Hednesford. "We were a bunch of chaps playing highly competitively, but a lot of laughing gas was involved in the playing too!"

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